MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

マルドゥック・スクランブル

7

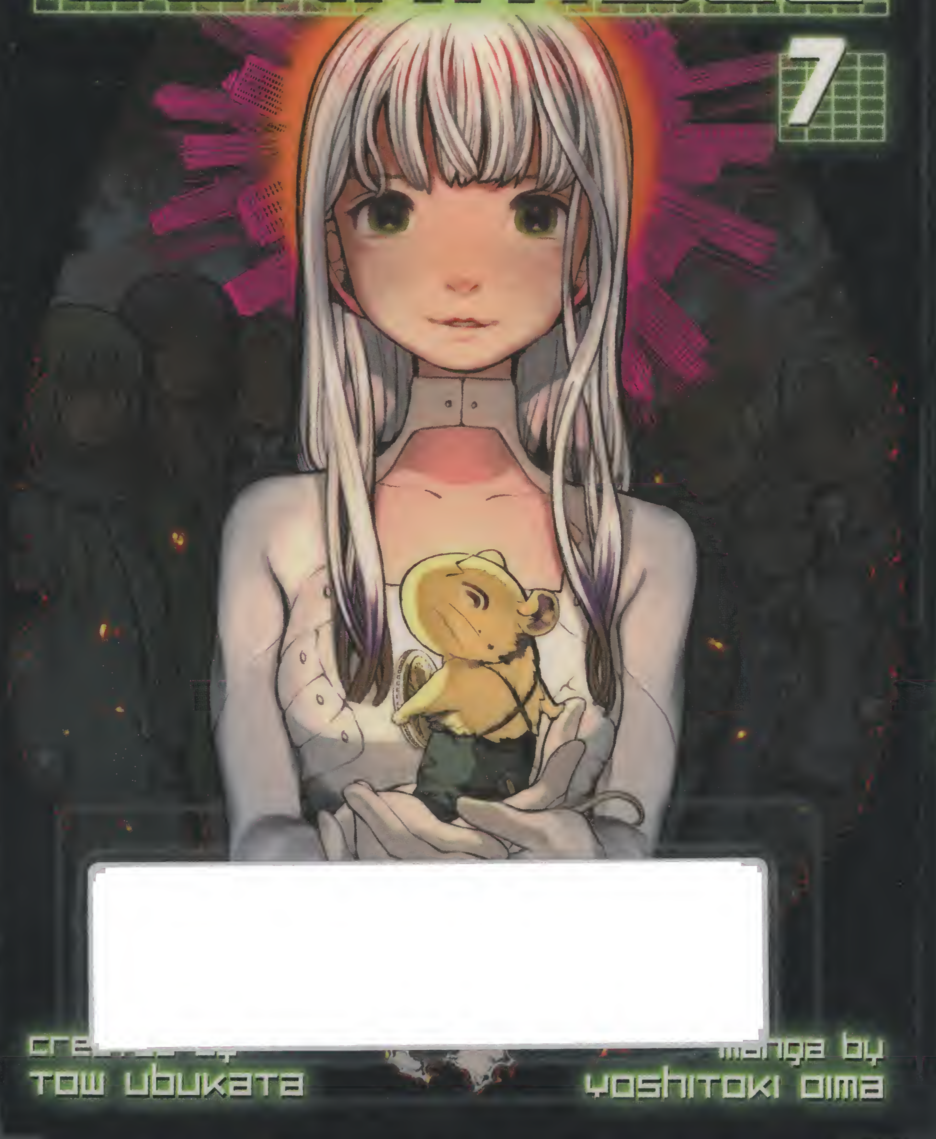
[redacted]

created by
TOW UBUKATA

manga by
YOSHITOKI OIMA

MARDOCK
マルドゥック・スクランブル
SCRAMBLE

7



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MOMENT OF TRUTH

To expose Shell's sins and understand the reason she was killed, Balot resolves to take a look at the memories of Shell she acquired. It has been a difficult road, but the end is in sight as the truth about the incident will finally be known. However, Boiled appears once more and a final battle to determine Balot's destiny commences!

Includes special extras after the story!

FINAL VOLUME!

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Yoshitoki Oima

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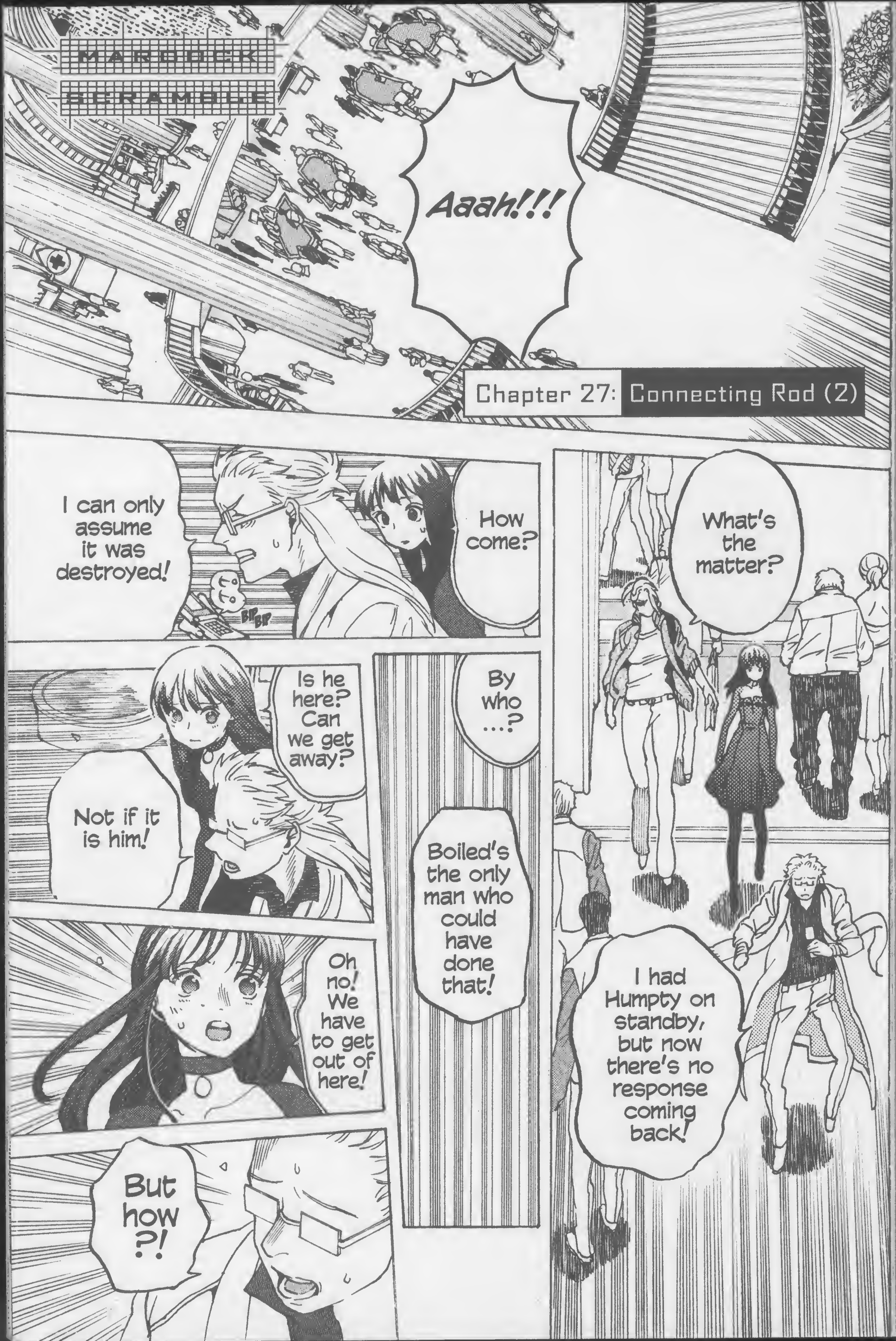
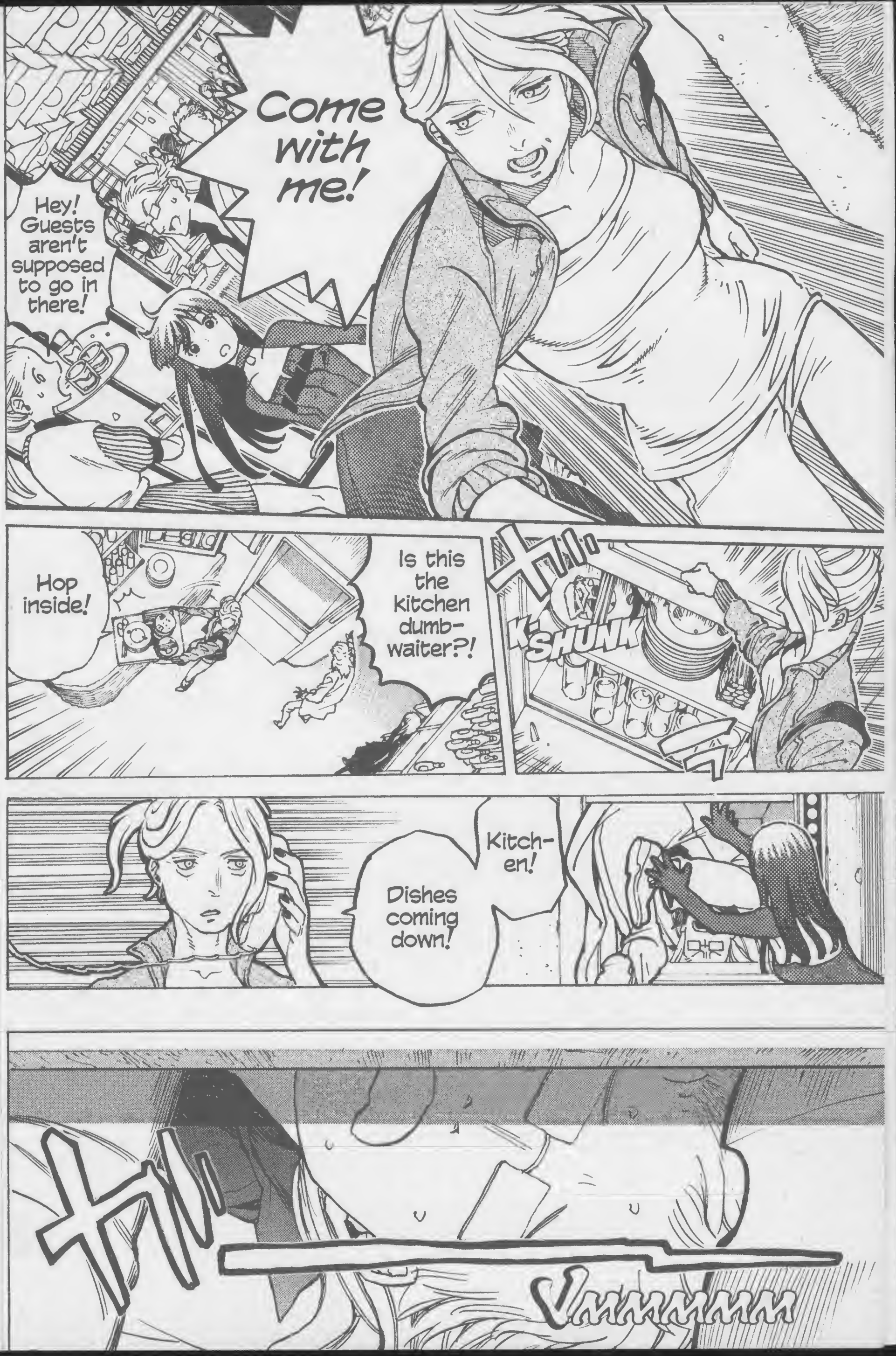
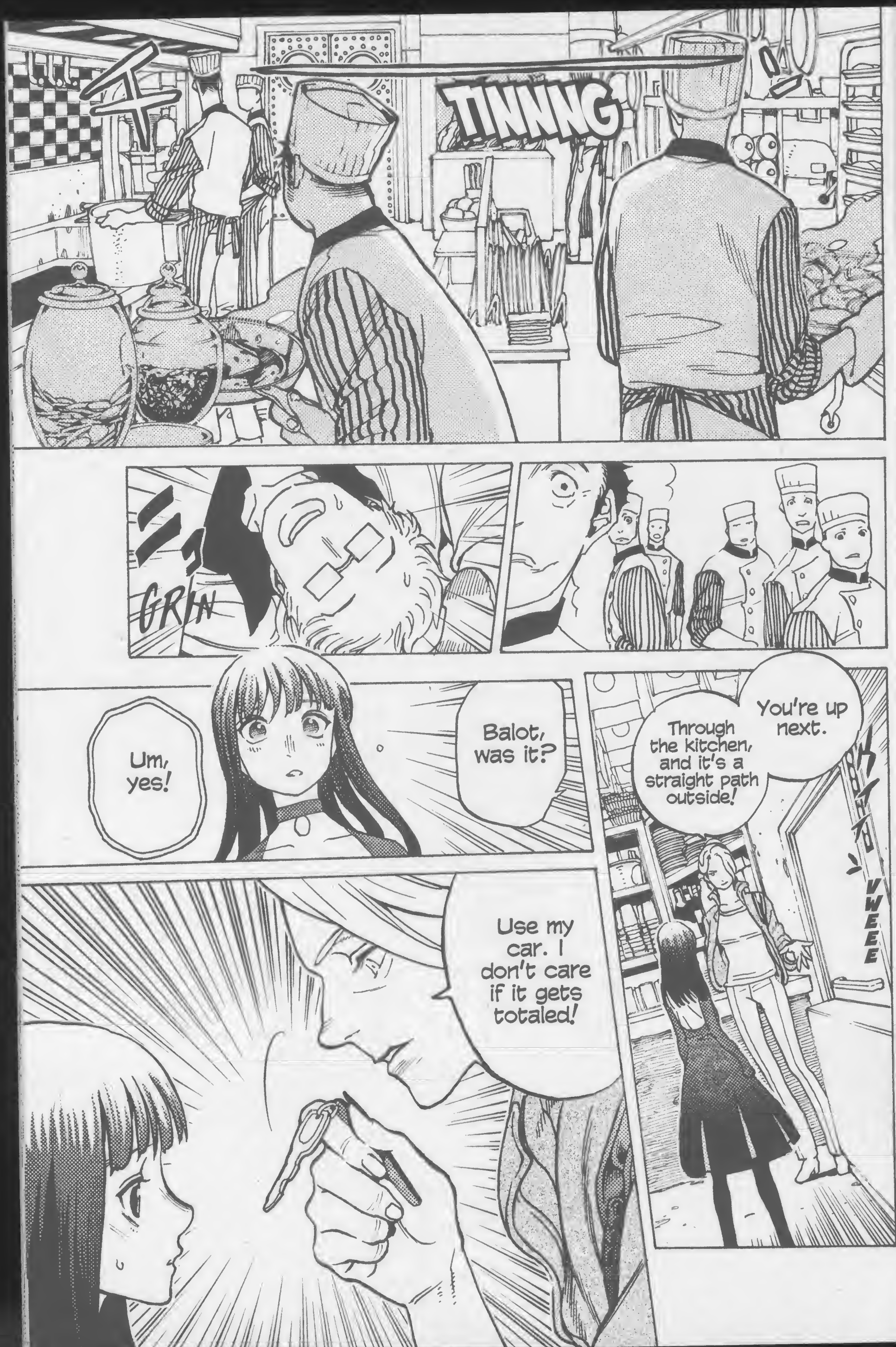
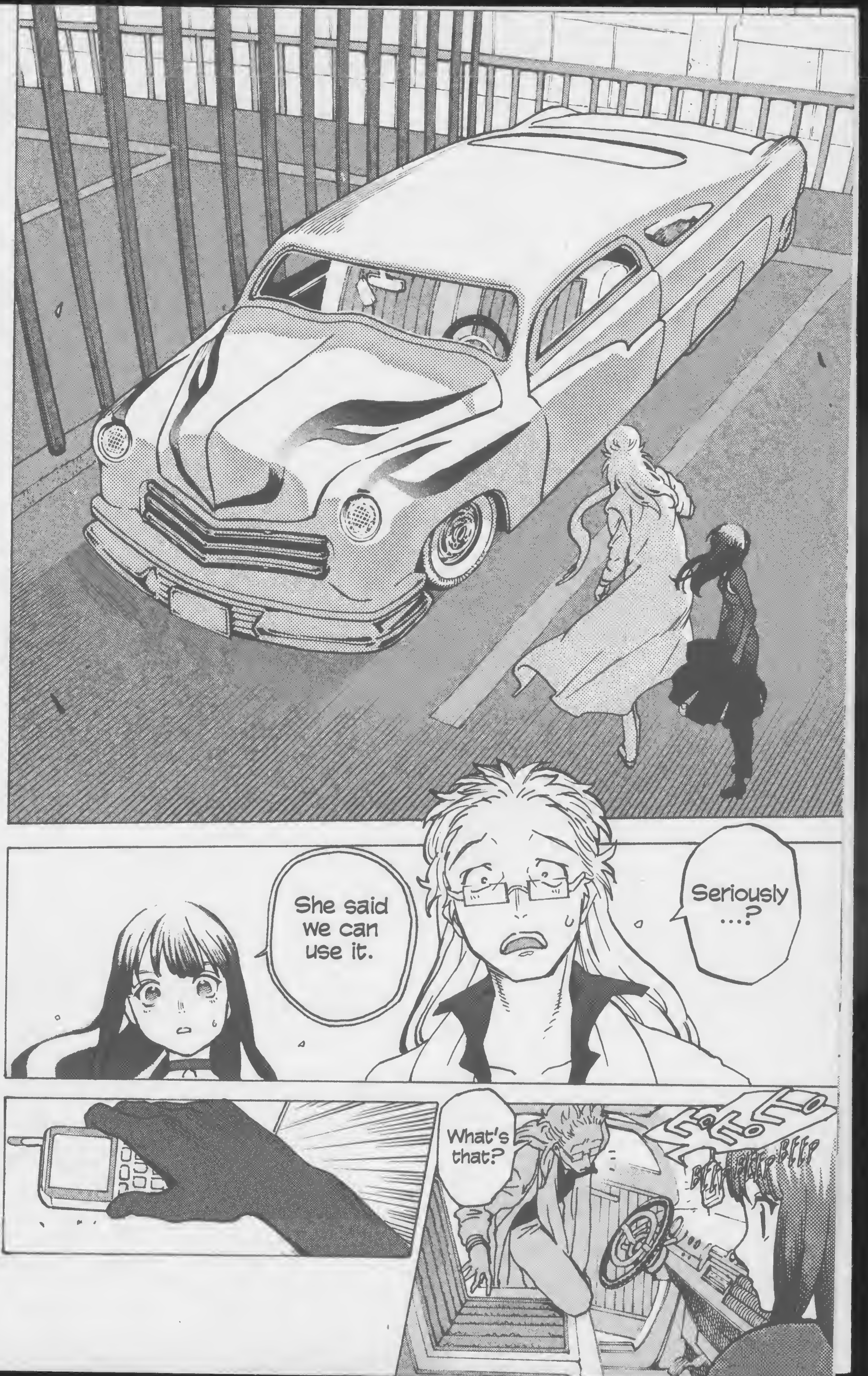
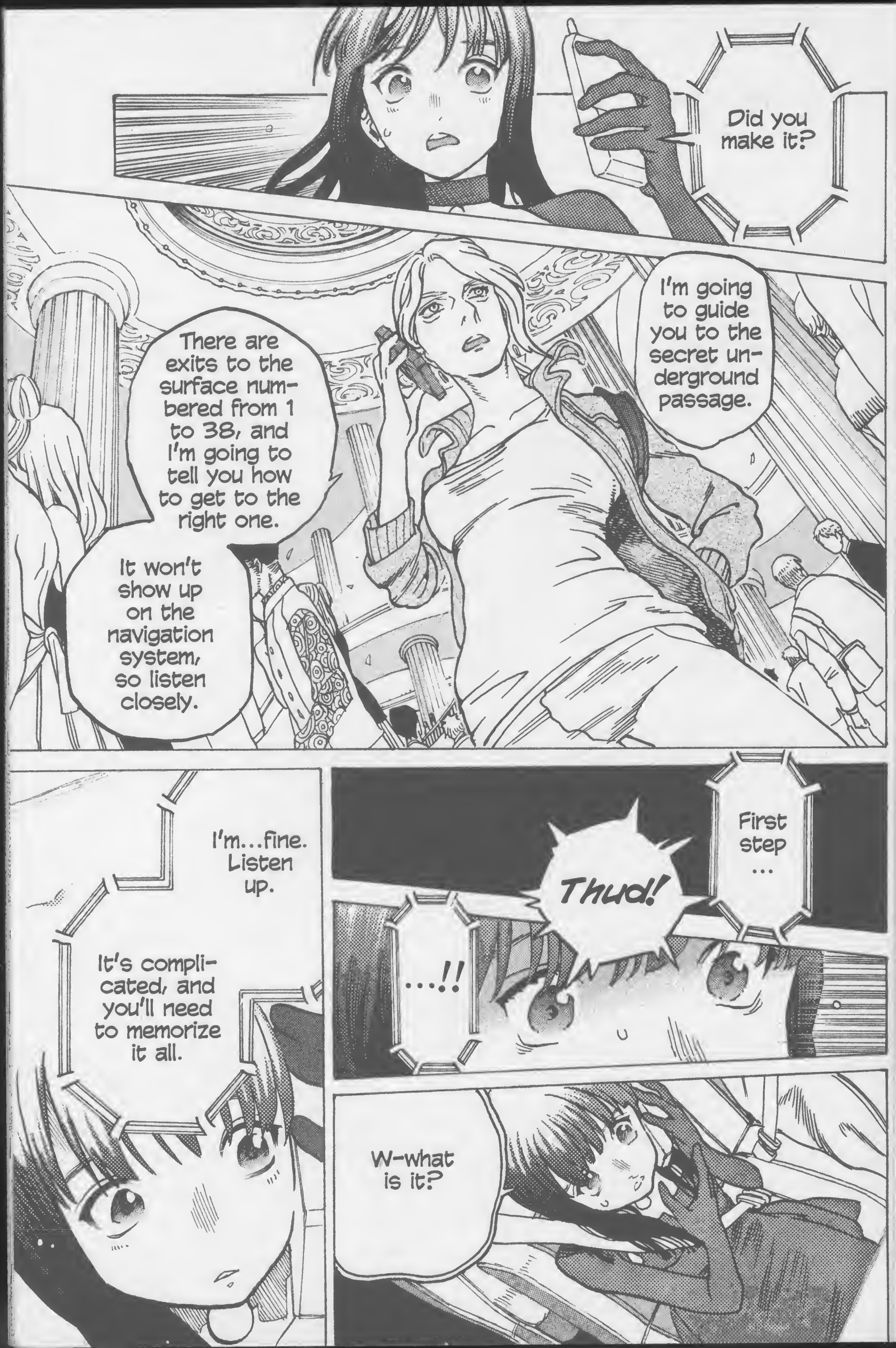

MARDOCK SCRAMBLE
Aaah!!!
What's the matter?
I had Humpty on standby, but now there's no response coming back!
How come?
I can only assume it was destroyed!
BP BP
By who ...?
Boiled's the only man who could have done that!
Is he here? Can we get away?
Not if it is him!
Oh no! We have to get out of here!
But how ?!

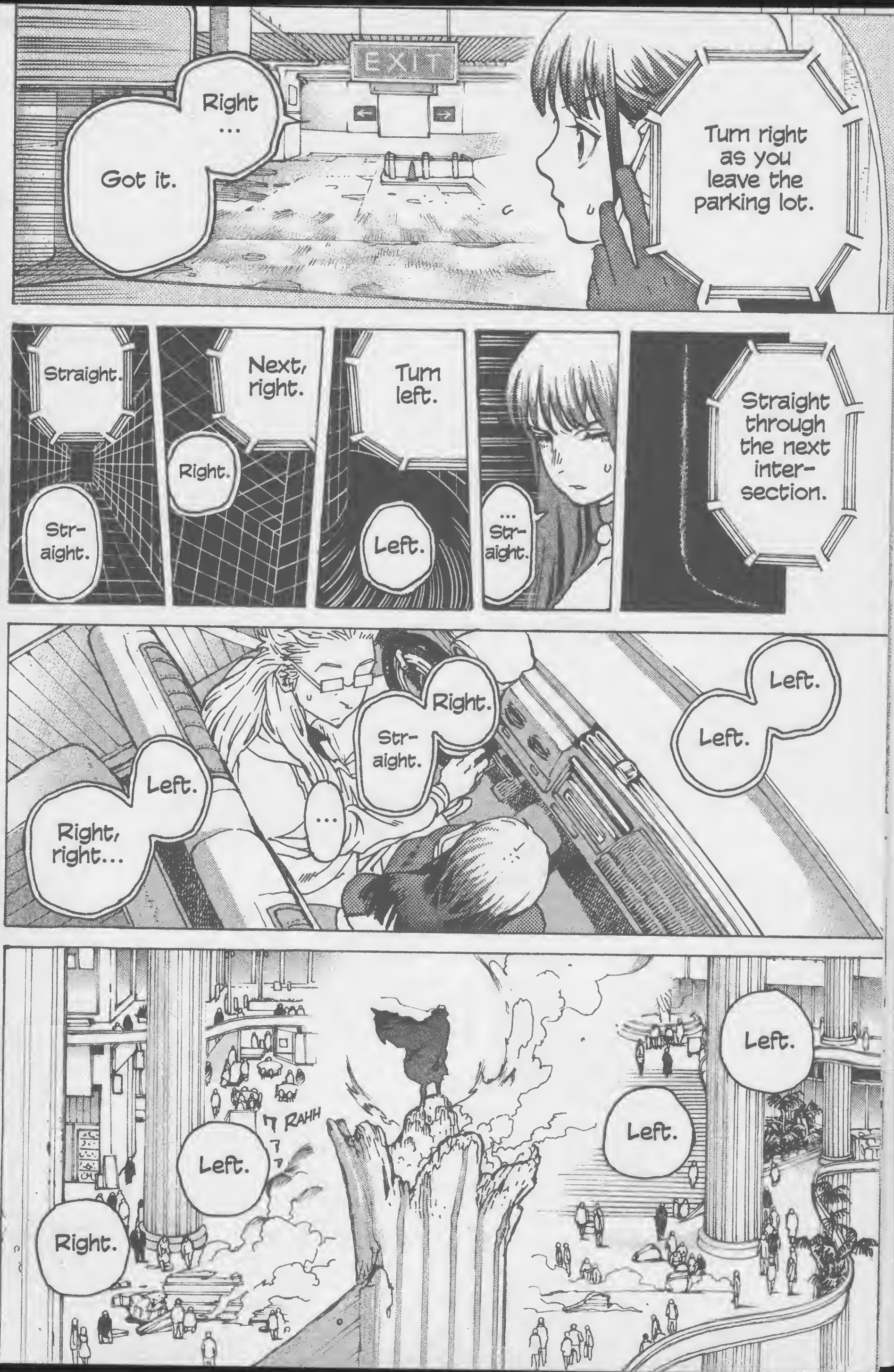
Chapter 27: Connecting Rod (2)

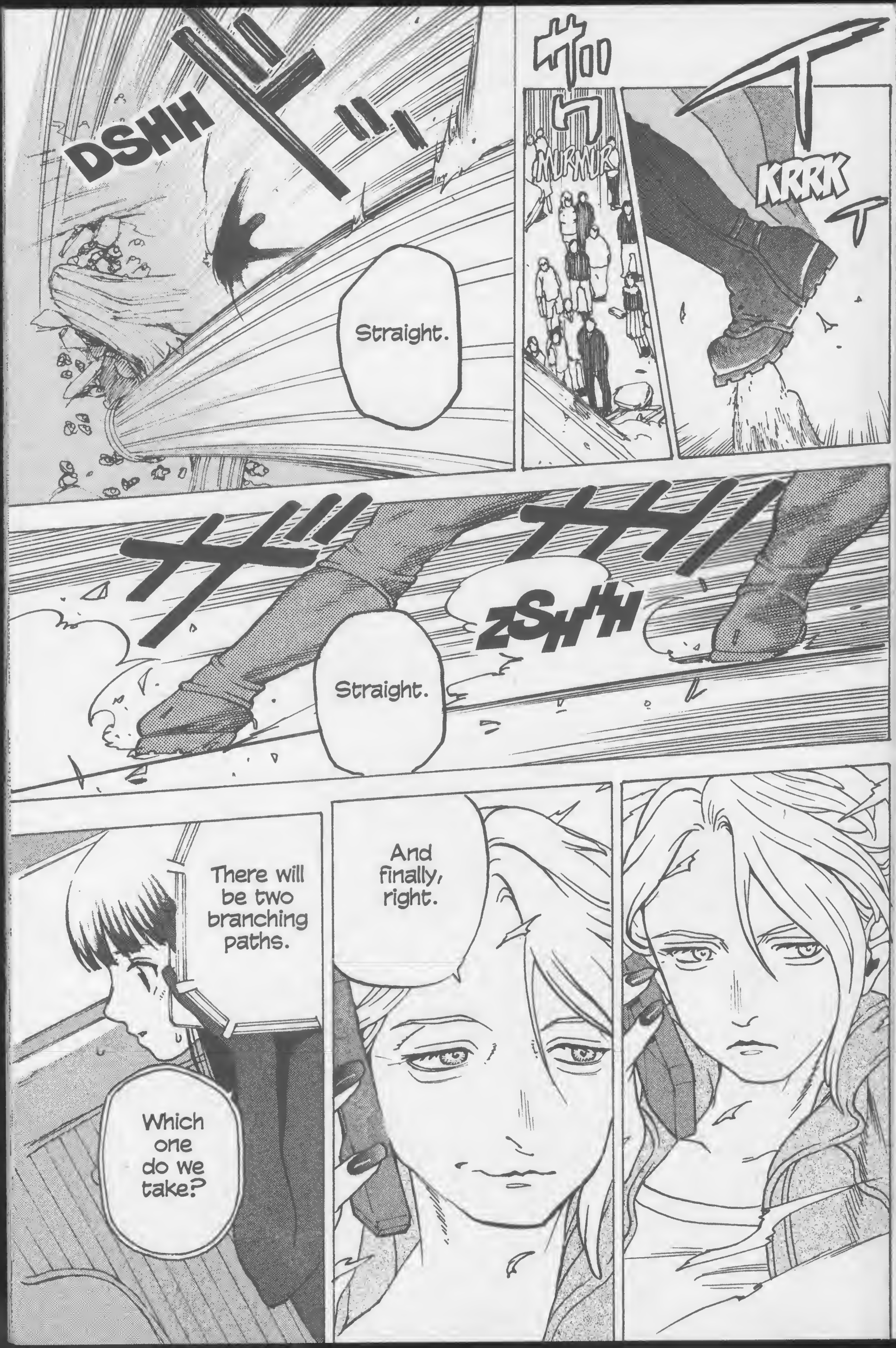

Come with me!
Hey! Guests aren't supposed to go in there!
K-SHUNK
Is this the kitchen dumb-waiter?!
Hop inside!
Kitch-en!
Dishes coming down!
Vmmmmm

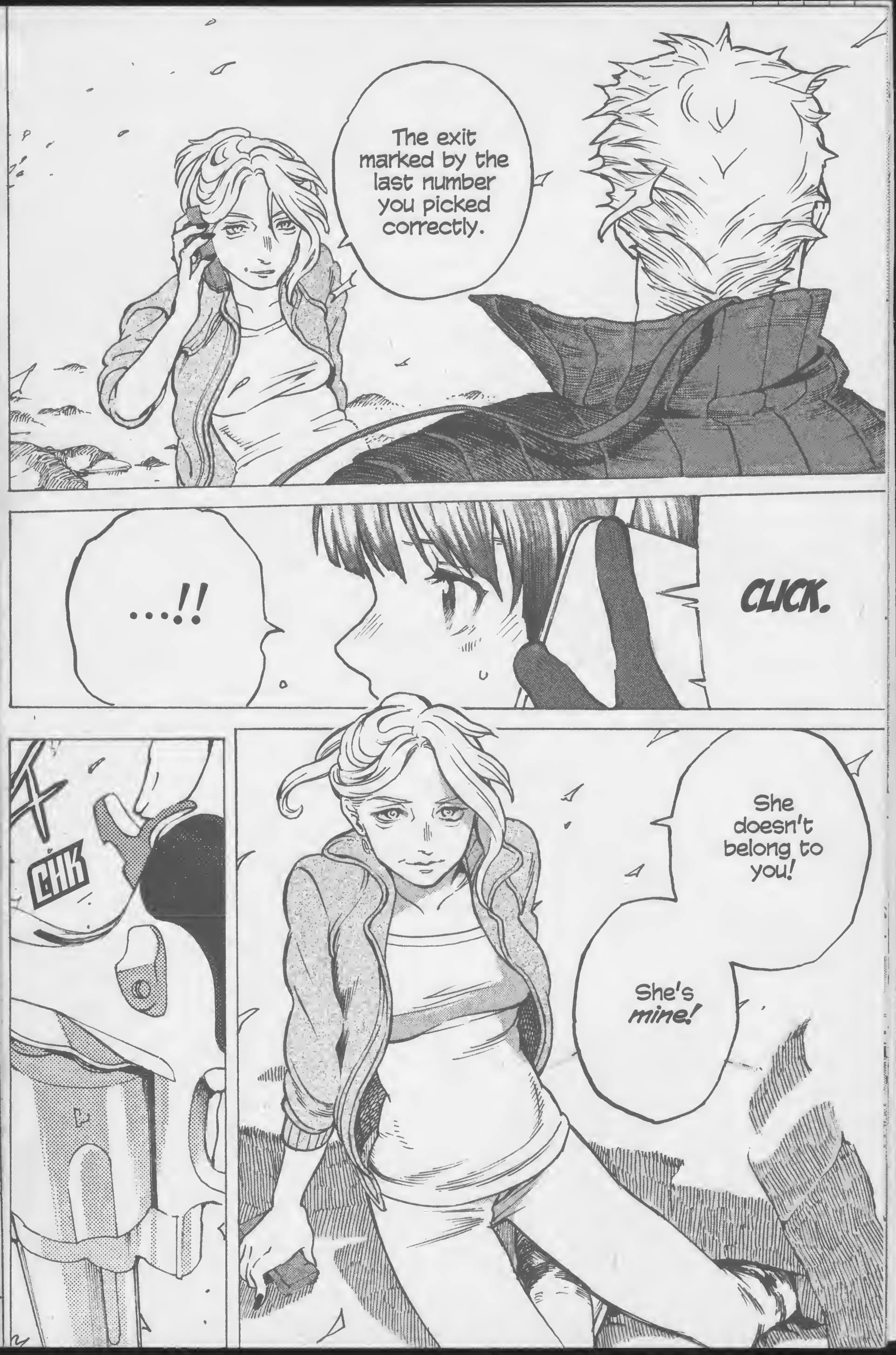

TINNNG
GRIN
You're up next.
Through the kitchen, and it's a straight path outside!
VWEEE
Balot, was it?
Um, yes!
Use my car. I don't care if it gets totaled!

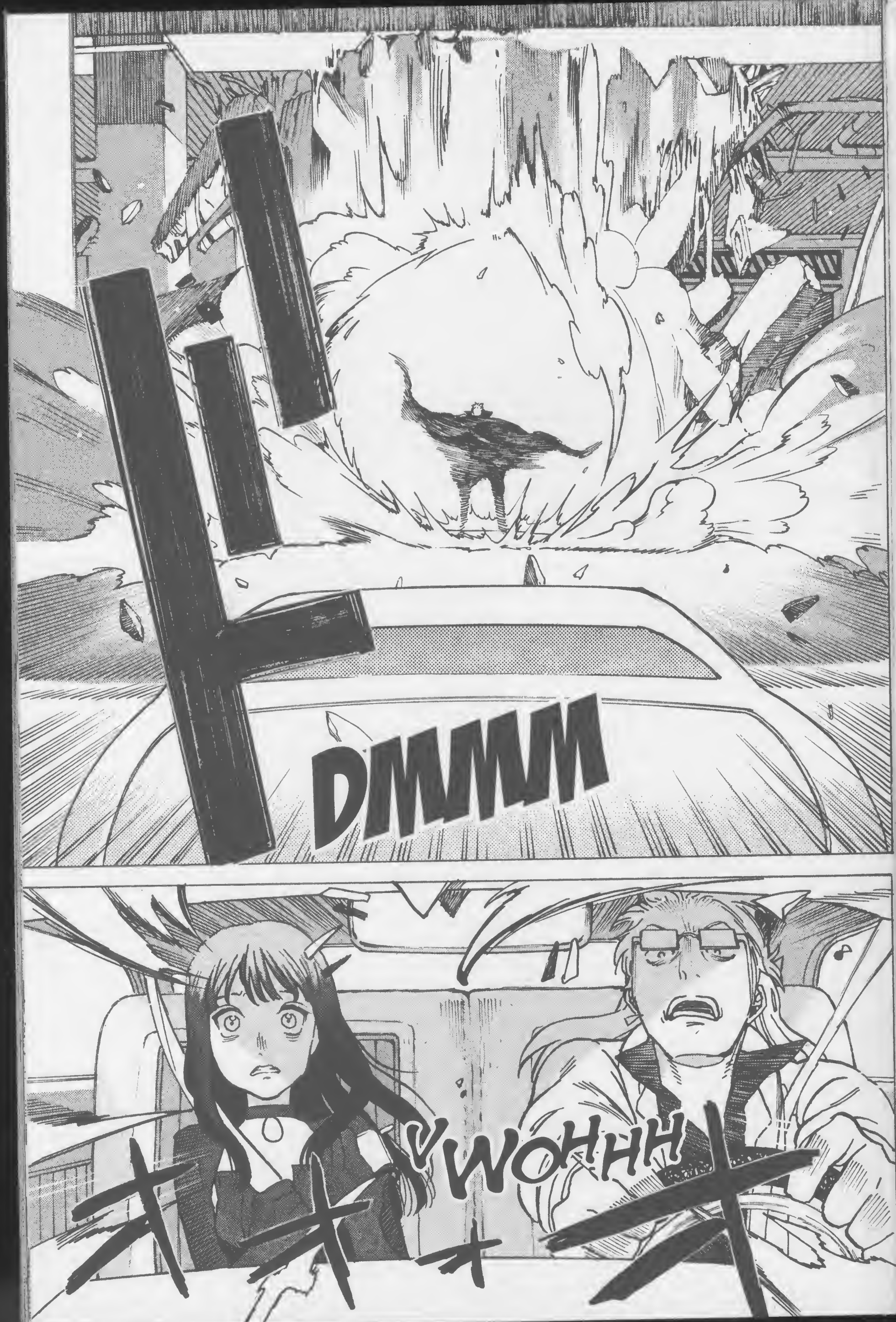

Seriously ...?
She said we can use it.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
What's that?

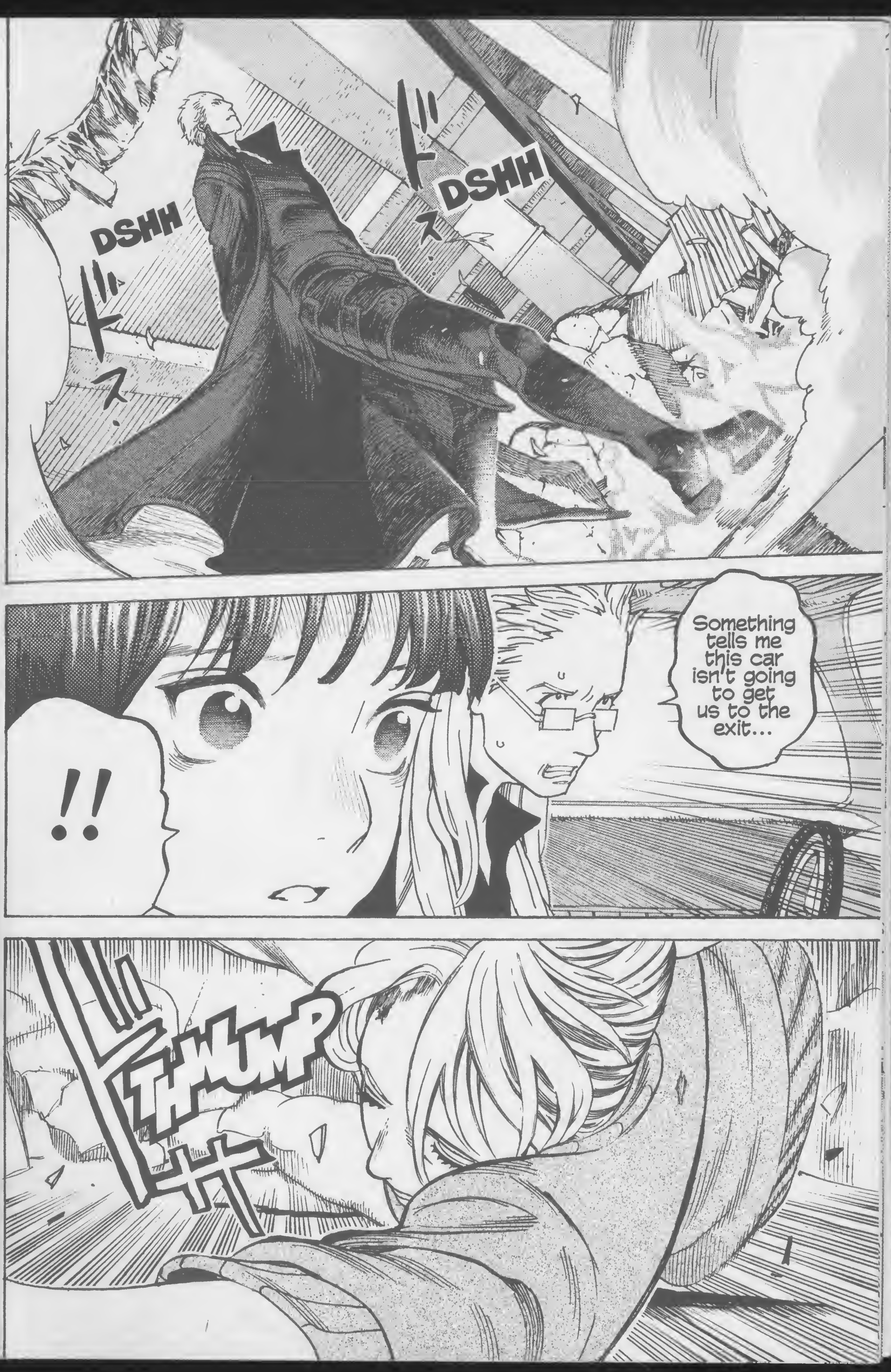

Did you make it?
I'm going to guide you to the secret underground passage.
There are exits to the surface numbered from 1 to 38, and I'm going to tell you how to get to the right one.
It won't show up on the navigation system, so listen closely.
First step ...
Thud!
...!!
W-what is it?
I'm...fine. Listen up.
It's complicated, and you'll need to memorize it all.

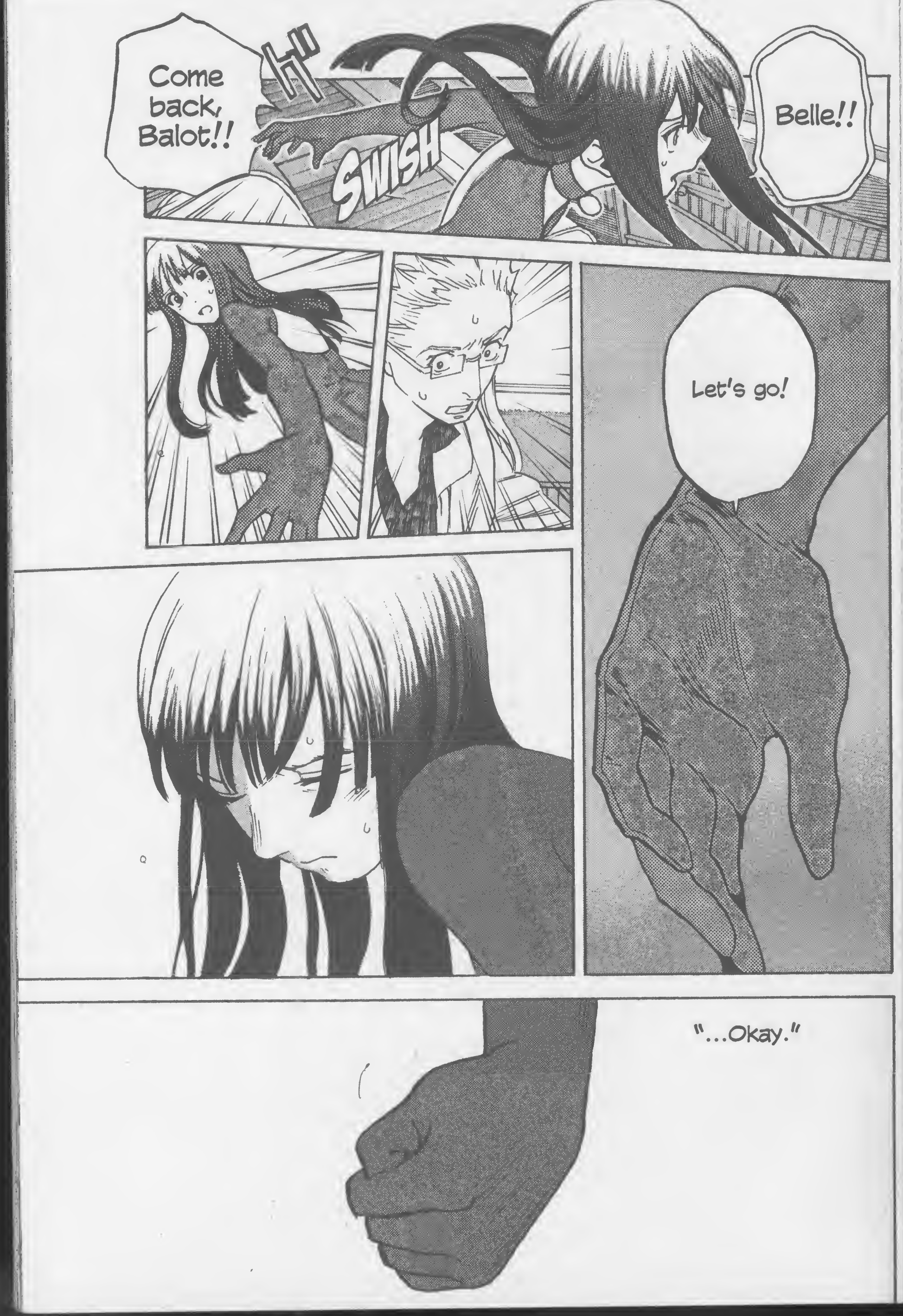

EXIT
Turn right as you leave the parking lot.
Right ...
Got it.
Straight through the next inter-section.
... Str-aight.
Turn left.
Left.
Next, right.
Right.
Straight.
Str-aight.
Left.
Left.
Right.
Str-aight.
...
Left.
Right, right...
Left.
Left.
RAHH
Left.
Right.

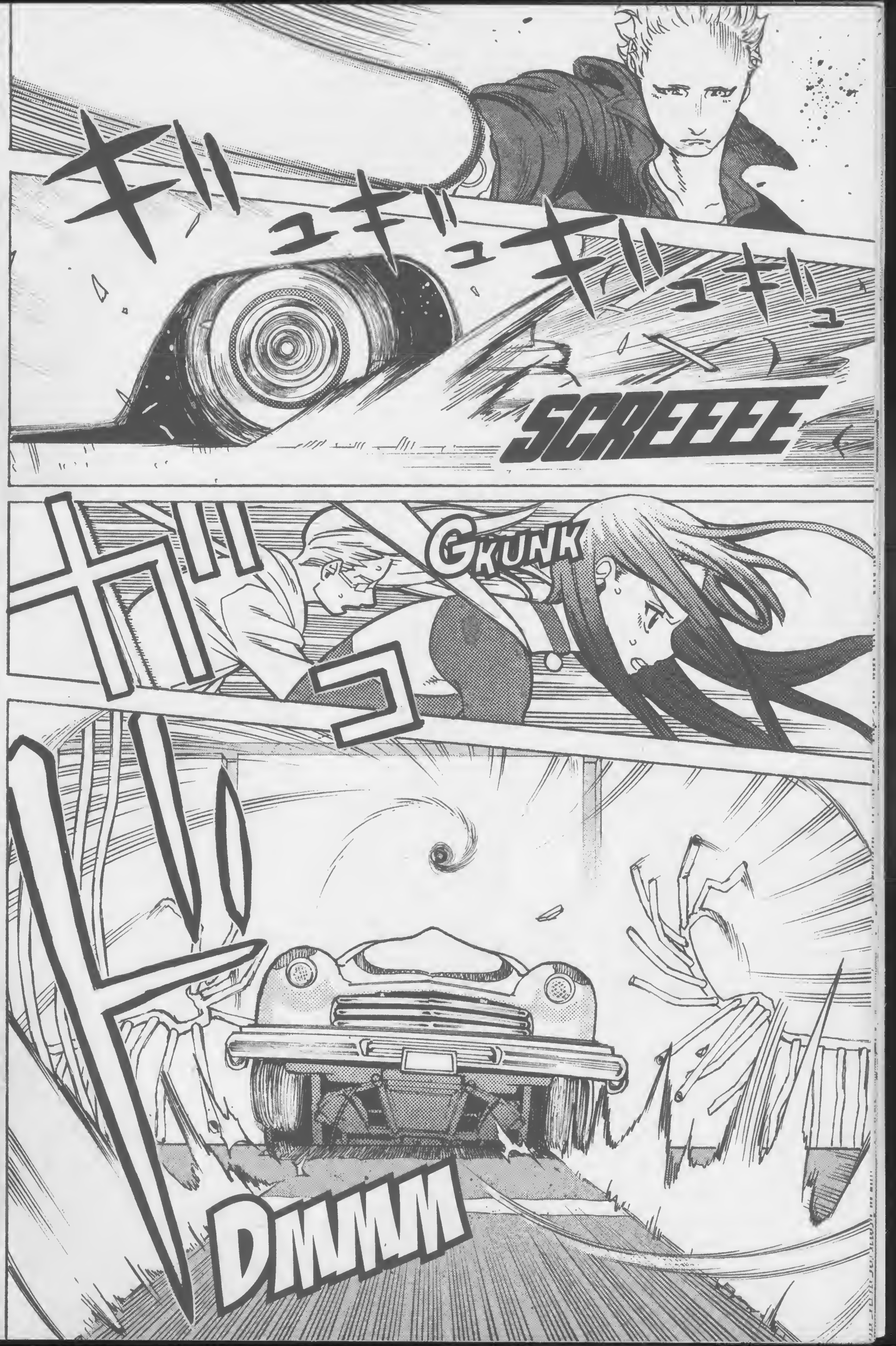

KRRK
MURMUR
Straight.
DSHH
ZSHHH
Straight.
And finally, right.
There will be two branching paths.
Which one do we take?

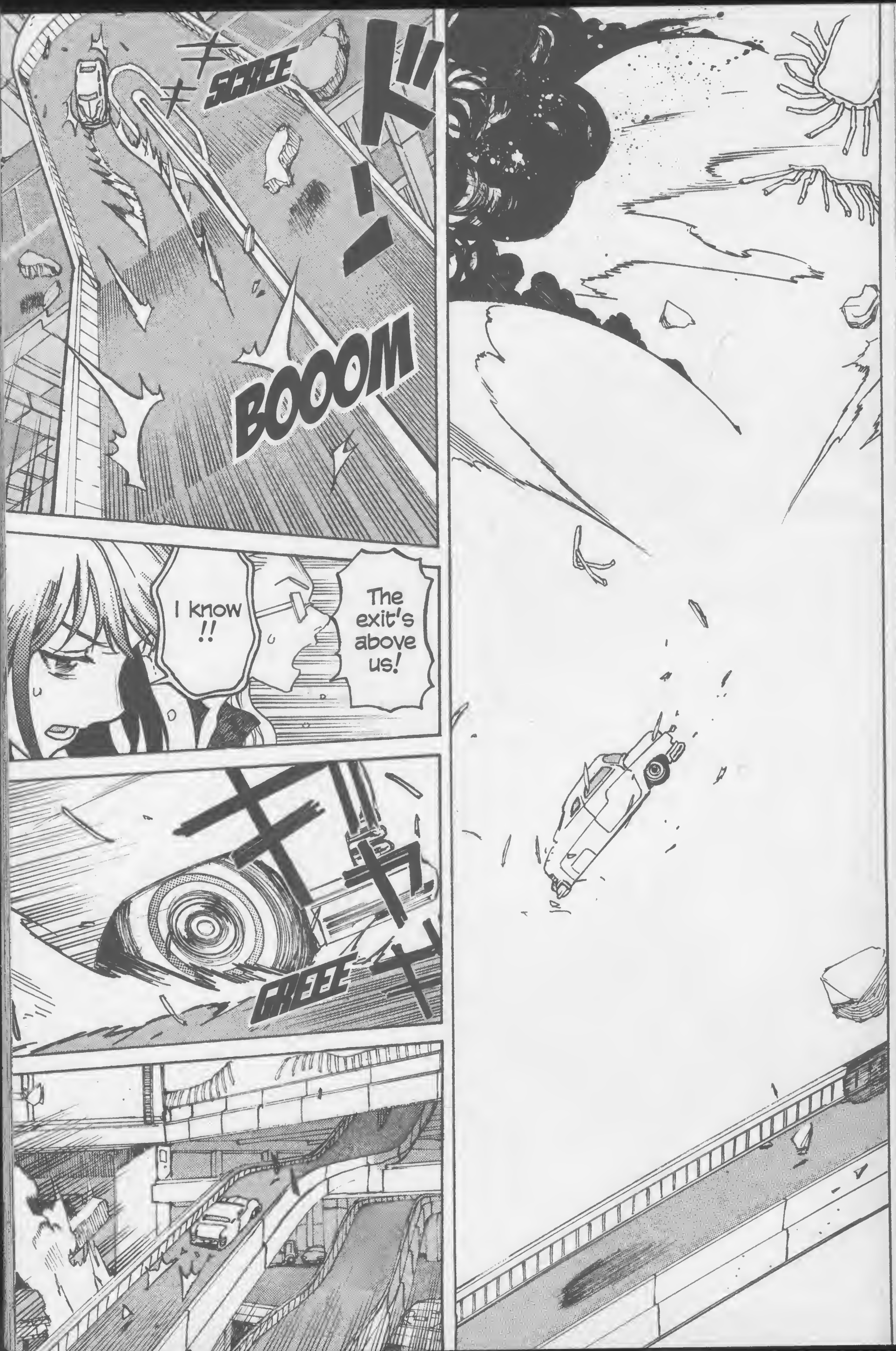

The exit marked by the last number you picked correctly.
...!!
CLICK.
CHK
She doesn't belong to you!
She's *mine!*

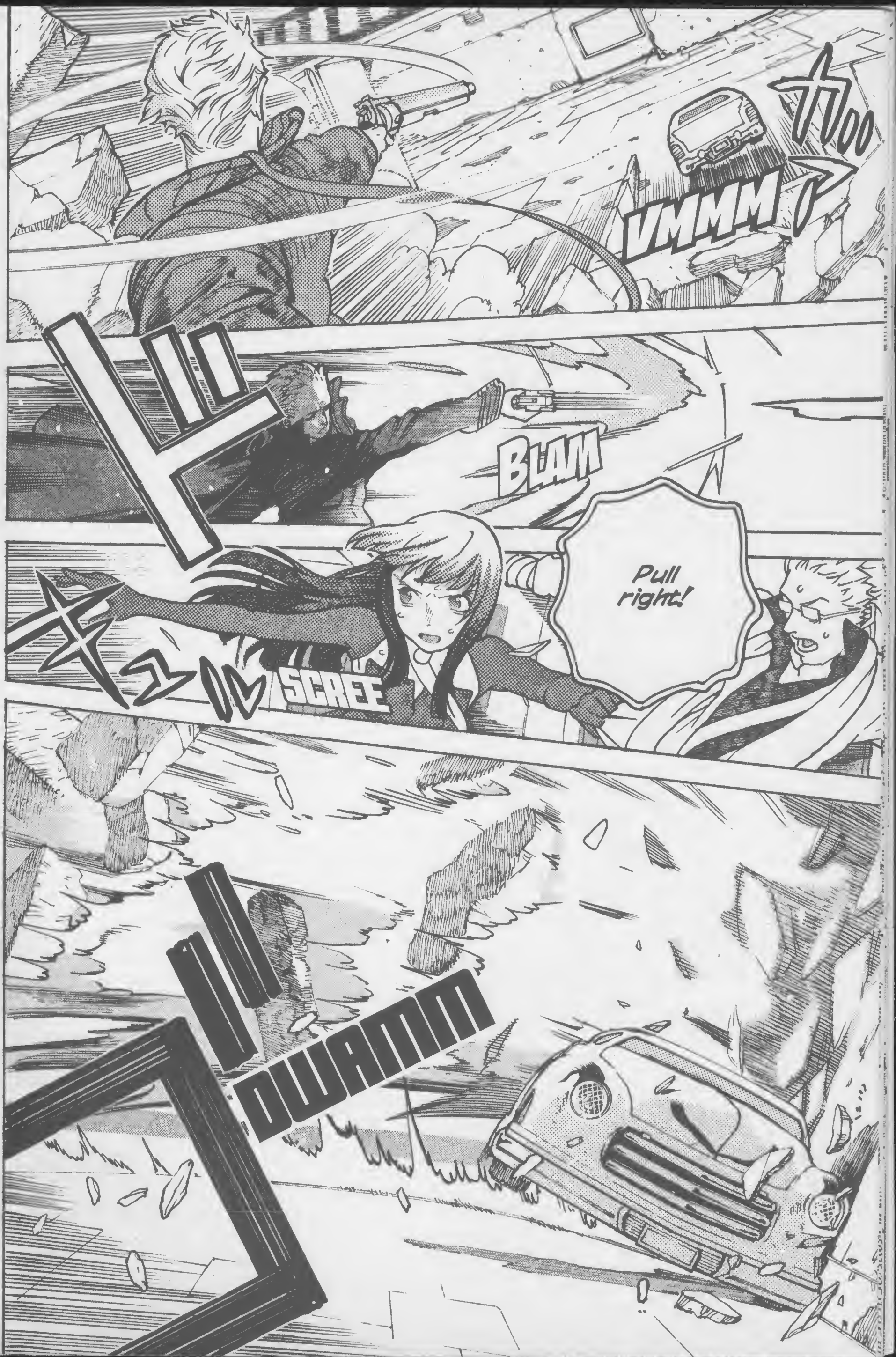

DMMM
WOHHH

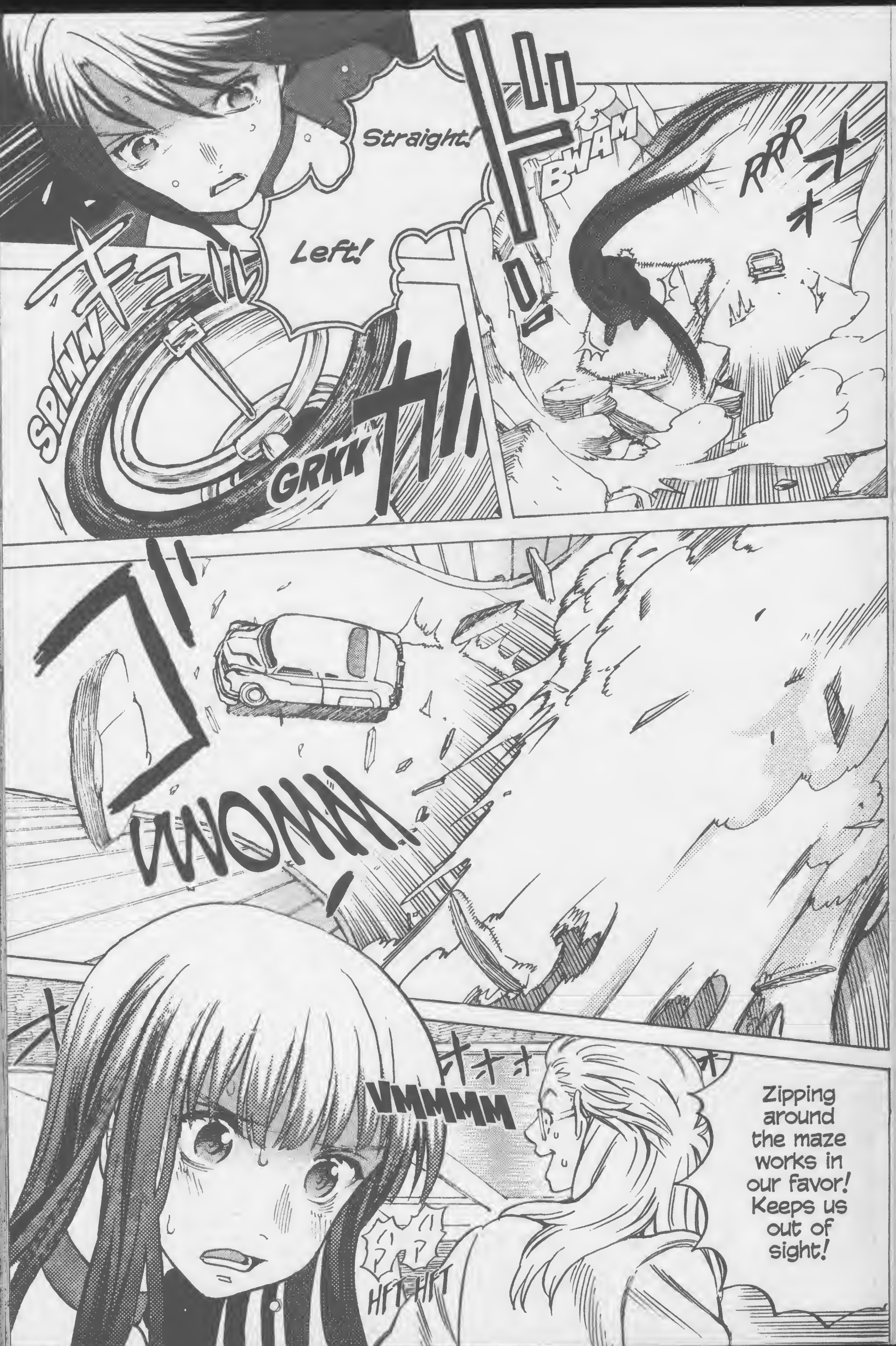

ドス
DSHH
ドス
DSHH
Something tells me this car isn't going to get us to the exit...
!!
ドサ
THWUMP

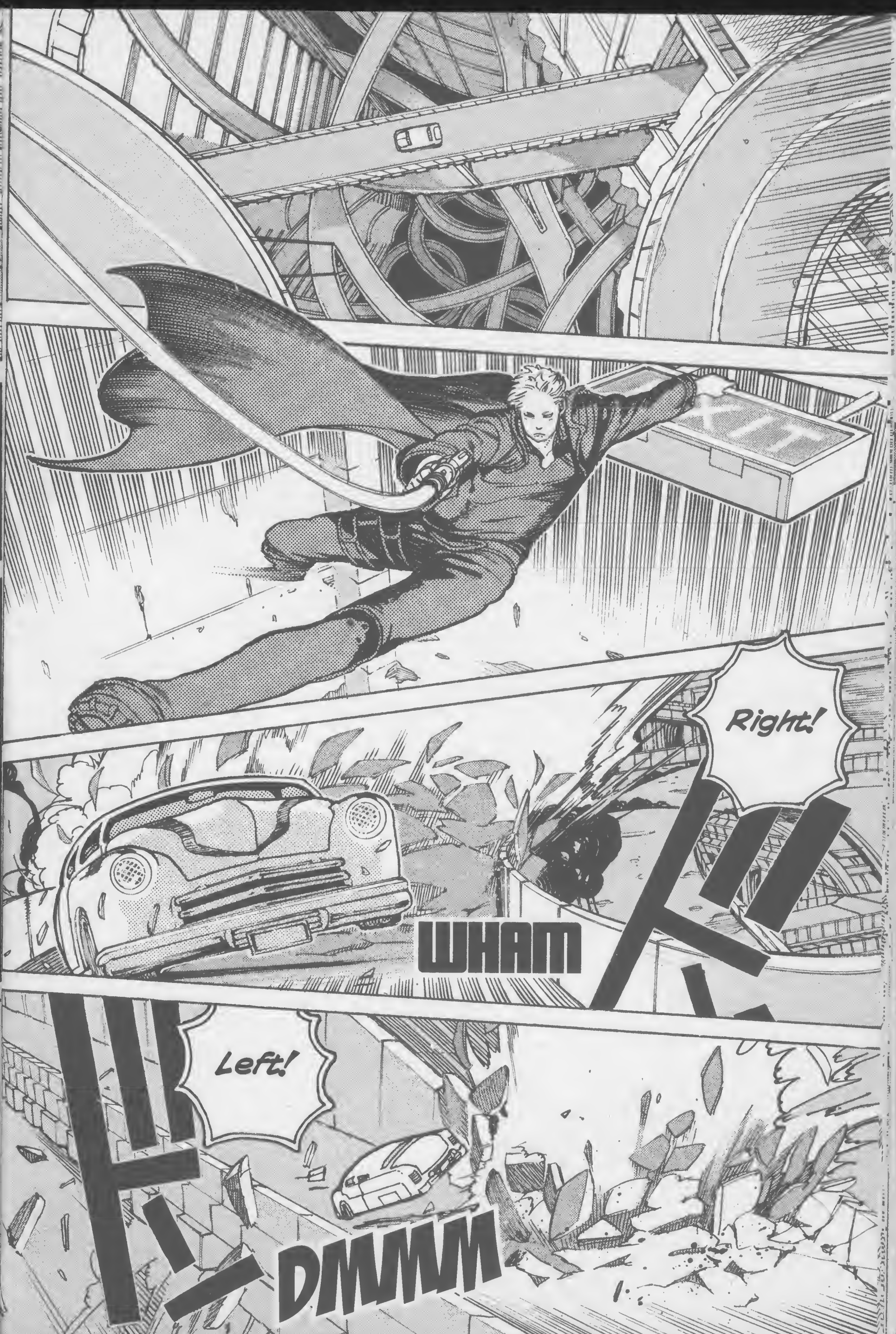

Belle!!
SWISH
ドッ
Come back, Balot!!
Let's go!
"...Okay."

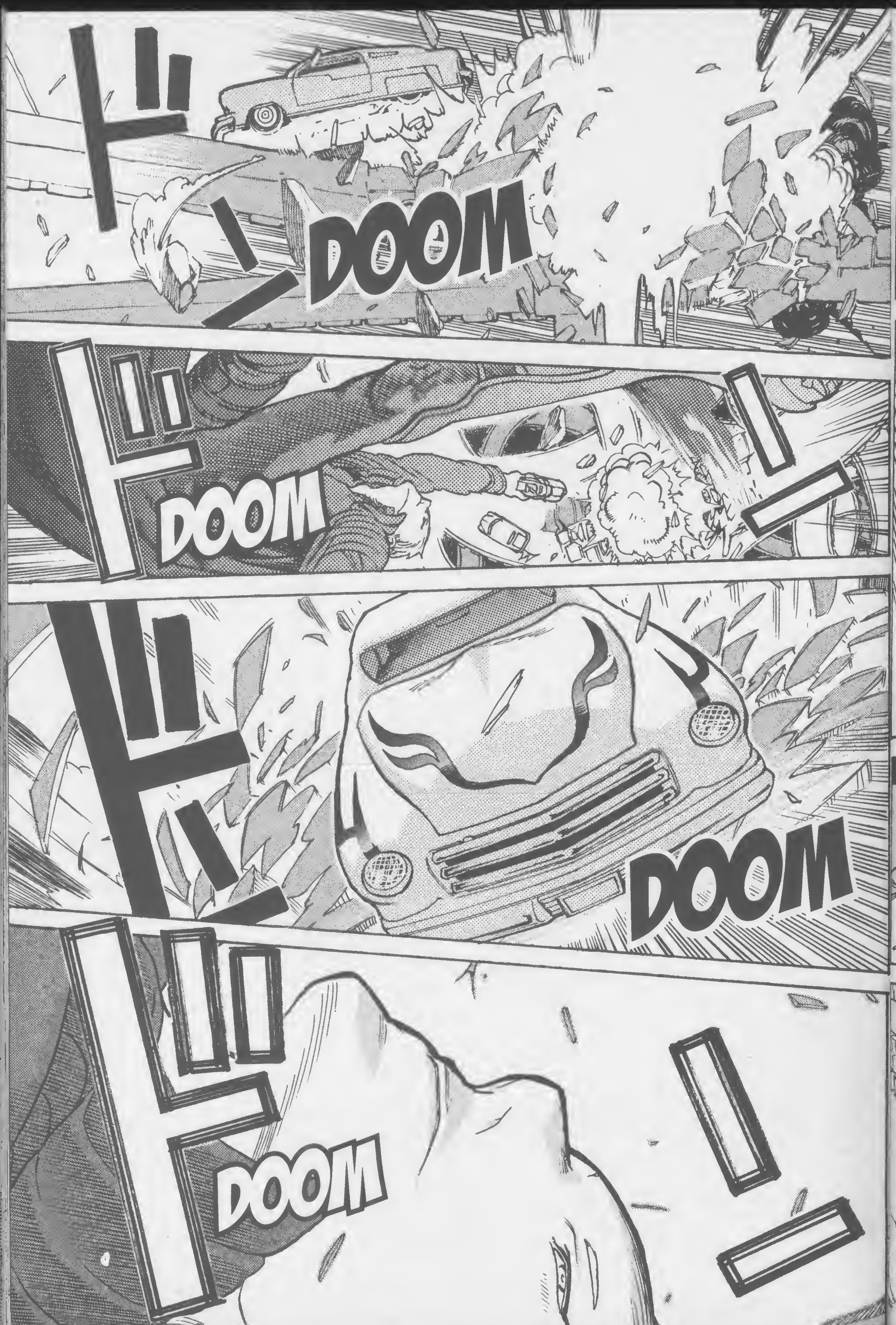

ギュギュギュギュ
SCREEEE
GKUNK
ガコッ
ドン
DMMMM

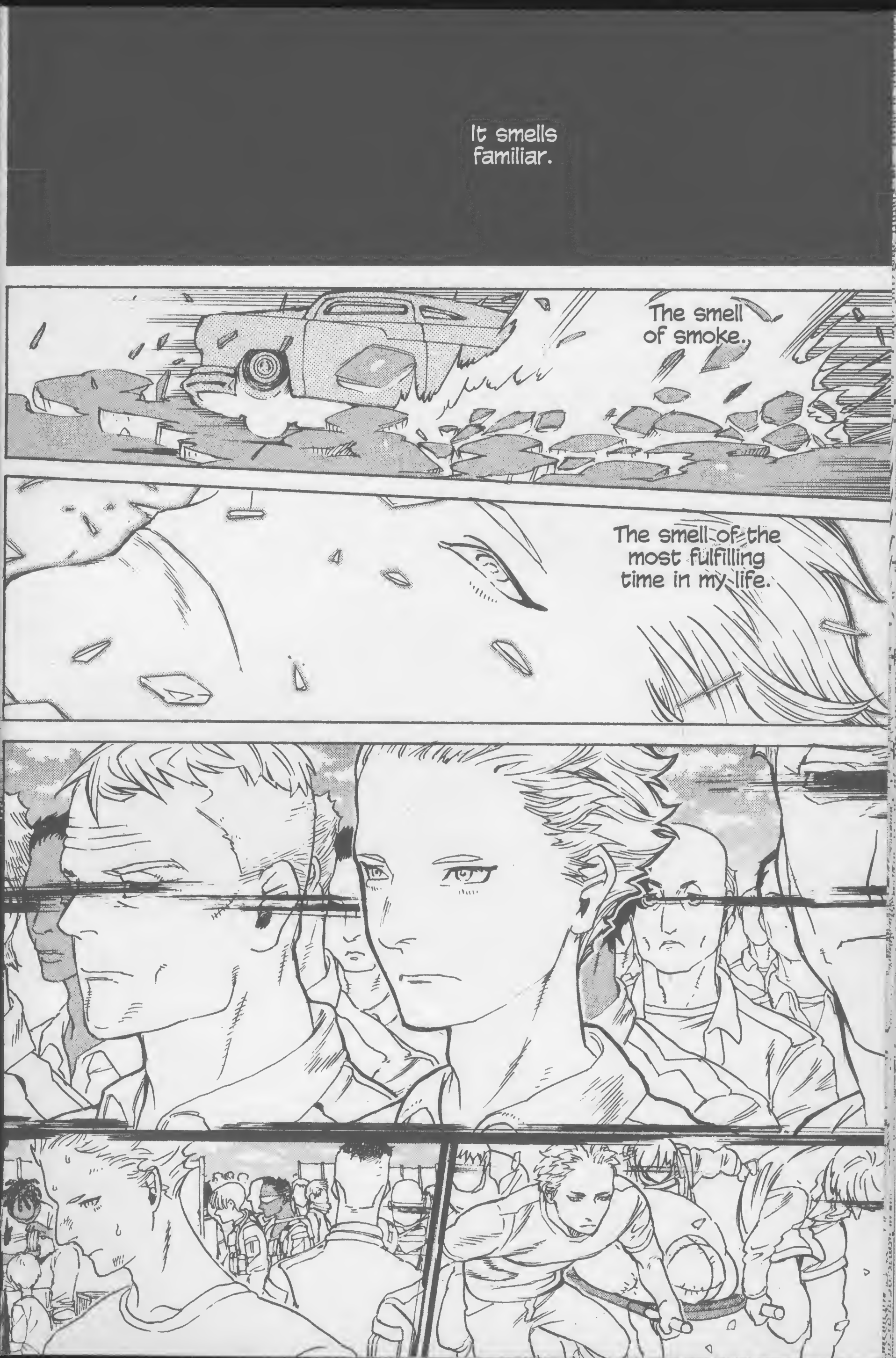

ドーン
キキ
SCREE
BOOOM
The exit's above us!
I know!!
キキキー
GREEE

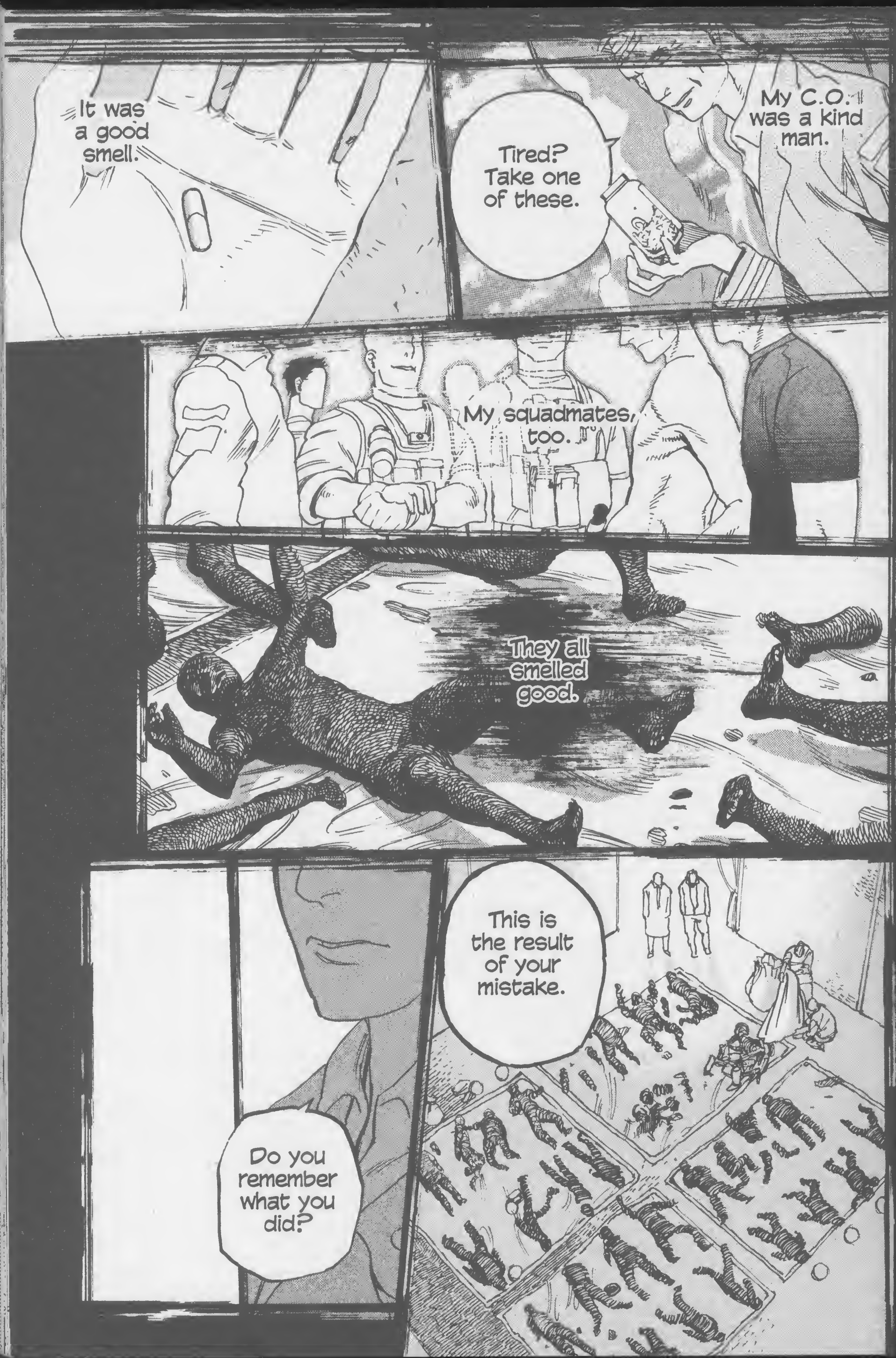

VMMM
BLAM
Pull right!
SCREE
DWAMM

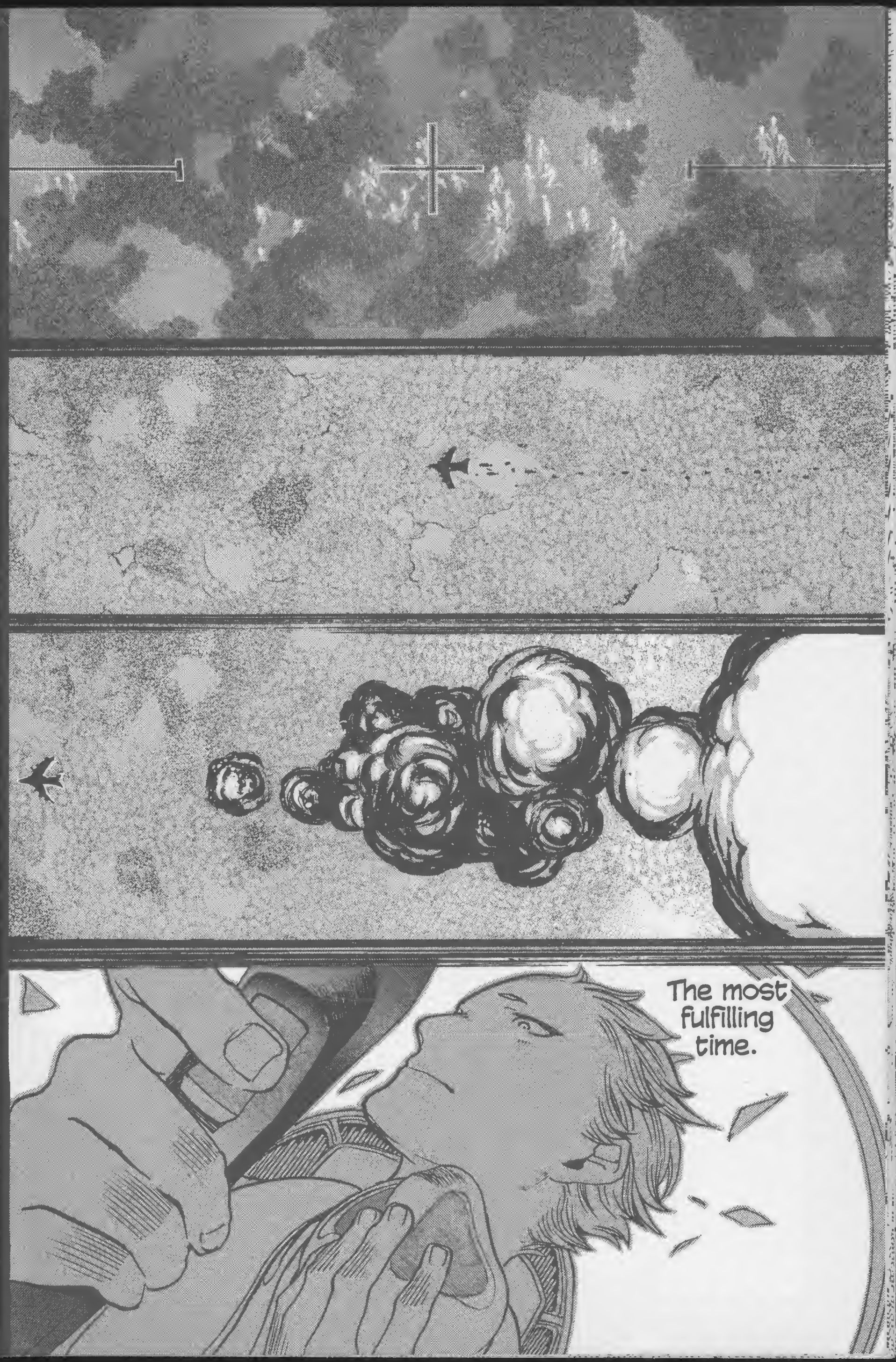

BWAM
RRR
Straight!
Left!
SPINN
GRKK
DWOMM
Zipping around the maze works in our favor! Keeps us out of sight!
VMMMM
HFT HFT


Right!
WHAM
Left!
DMMM

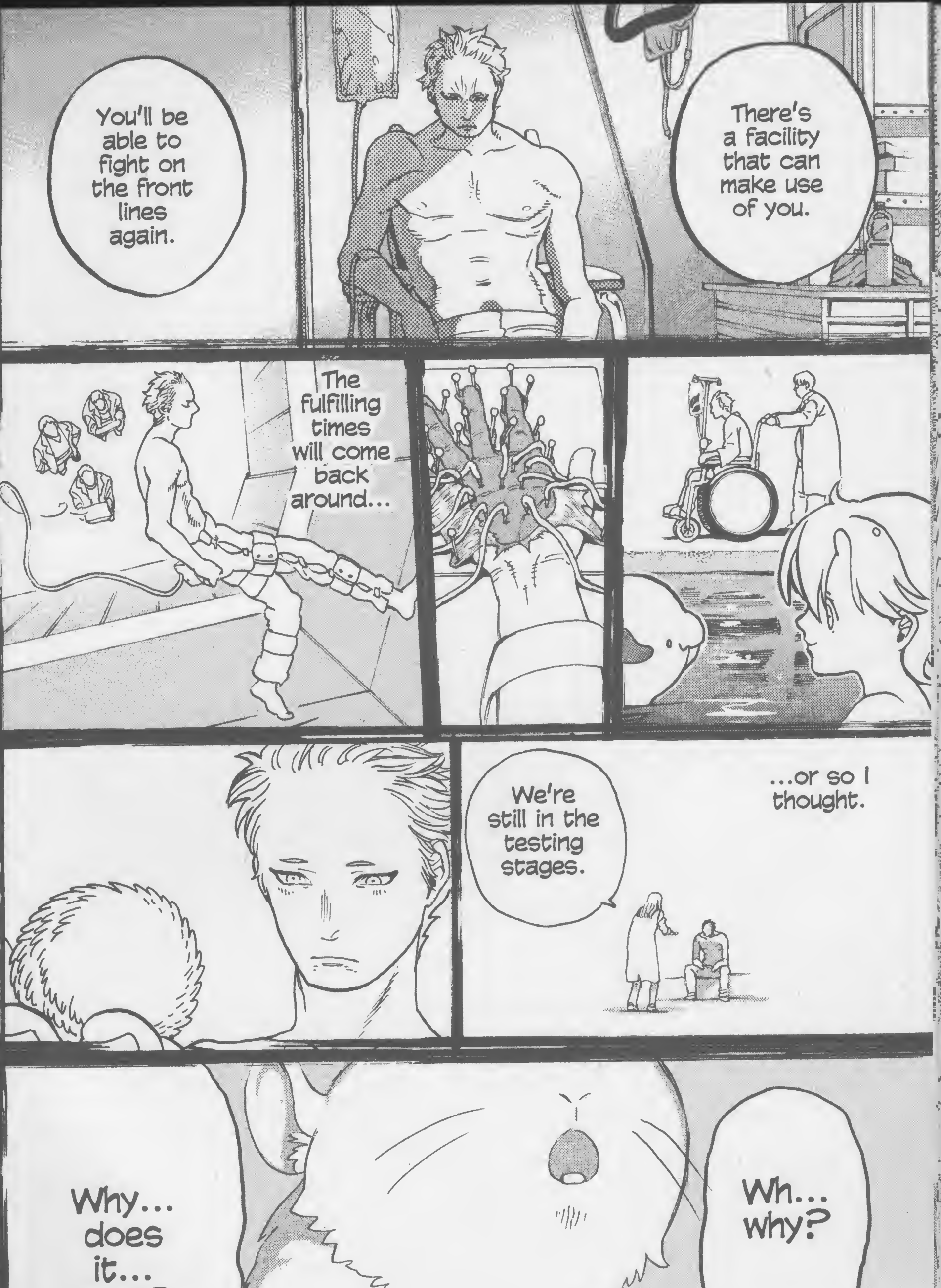

DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM

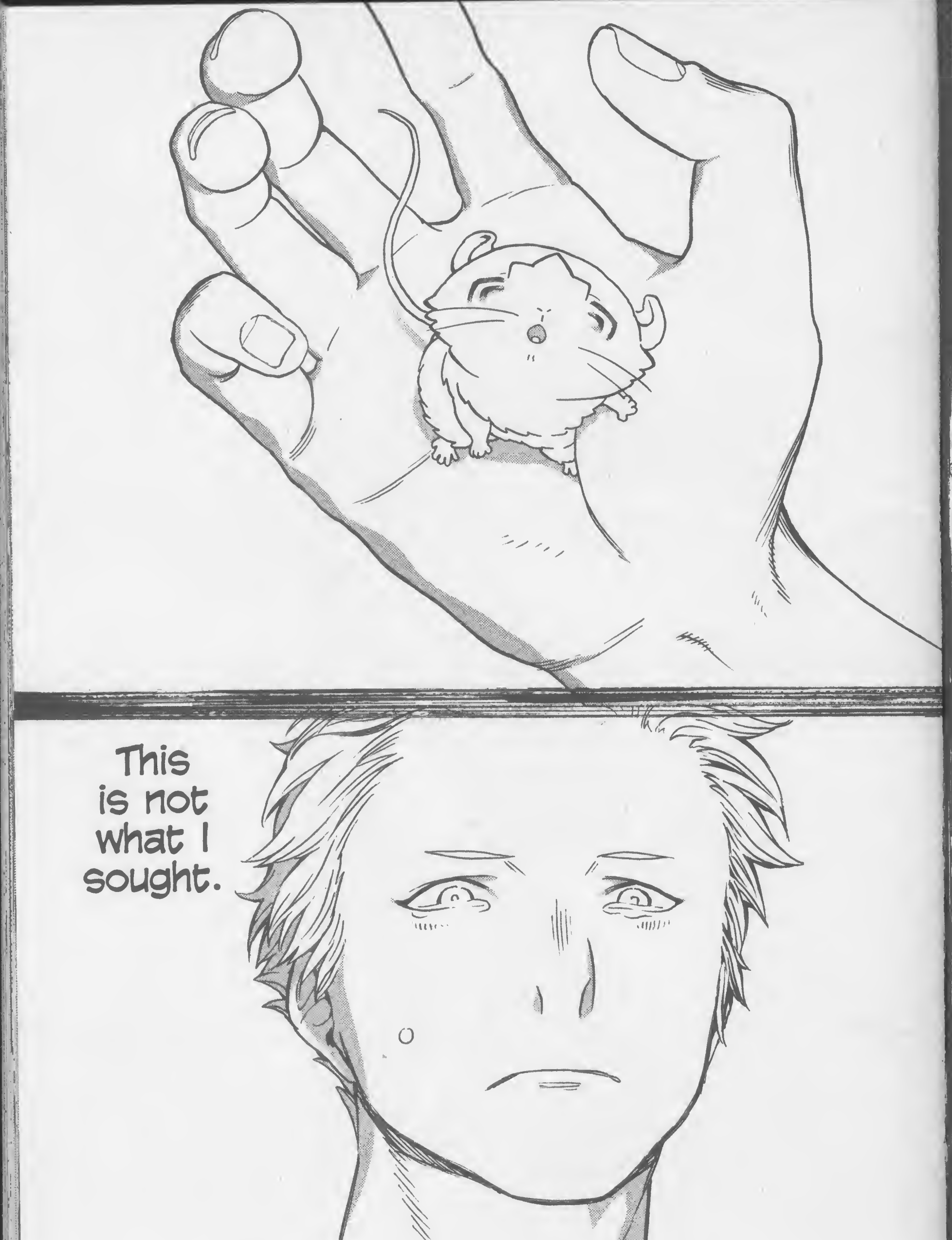

It smells familiar.
The smell of smoke.
The smell of the most fulfilling time in my life.

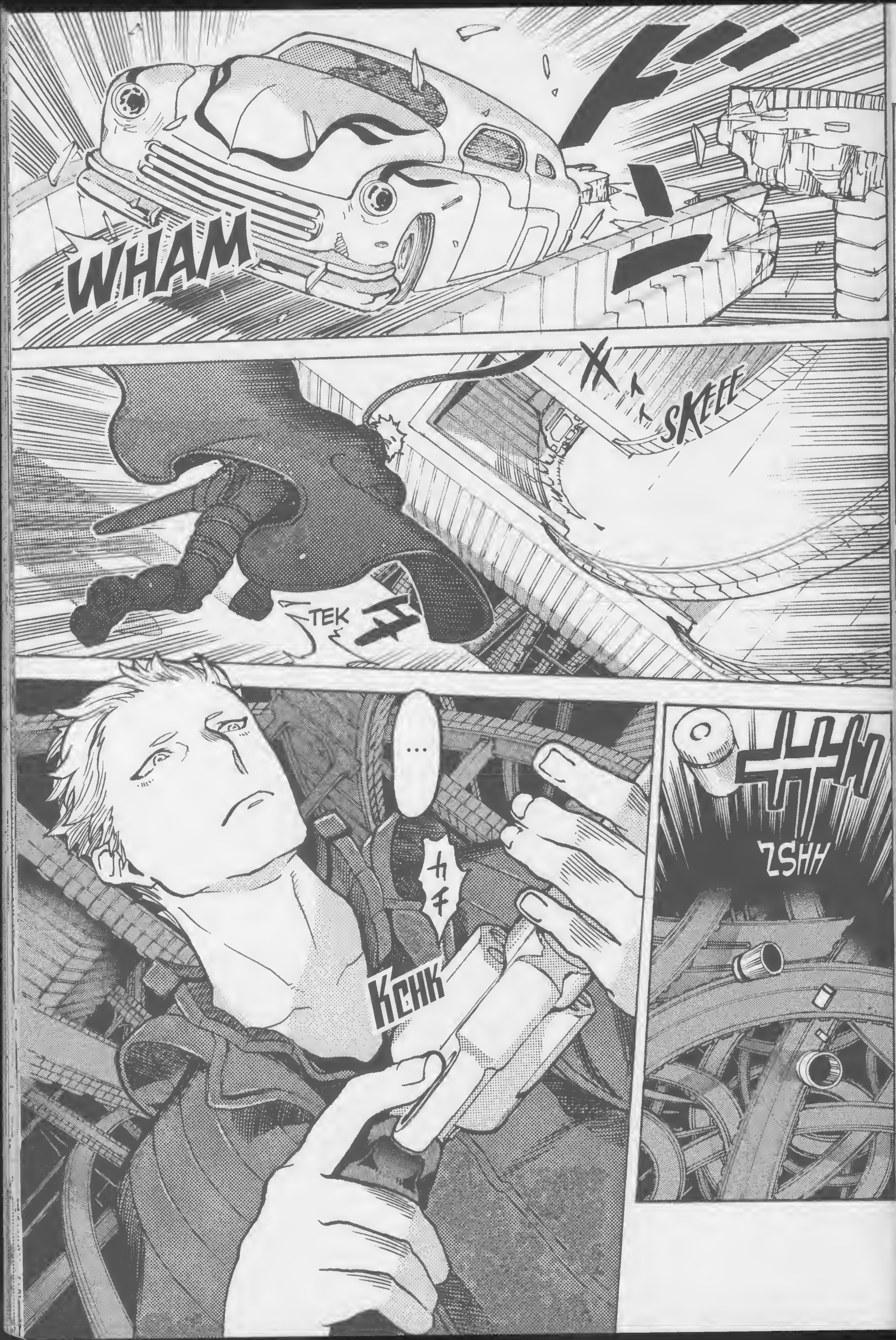

My C.O. was a kind man.
Tired? Take one of these.
It was a good smell.
My squadmates, too.
They all smelled good.
This is the result of your mistake.
Do you remember what you did?

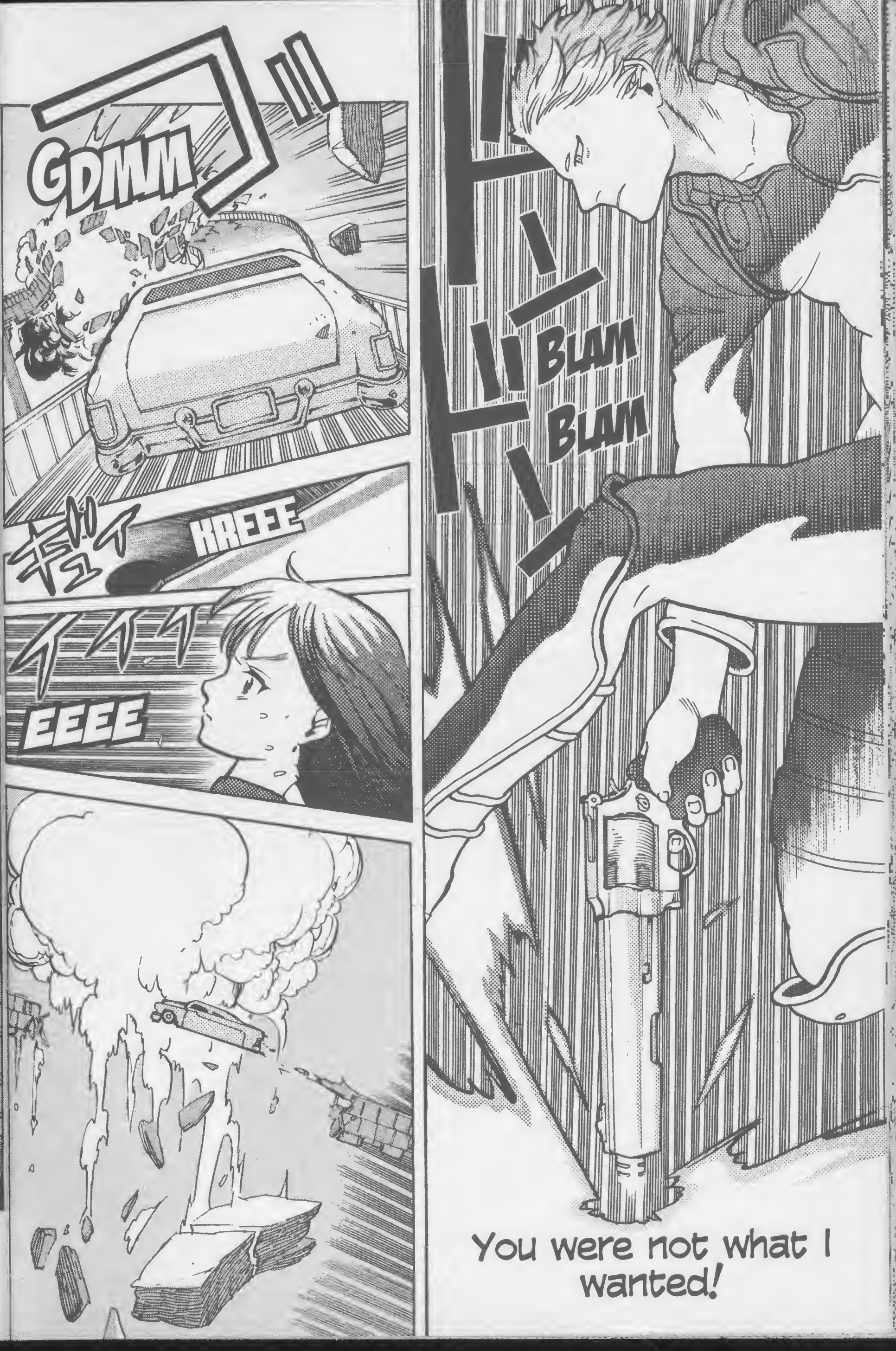

The most fulfilling time.

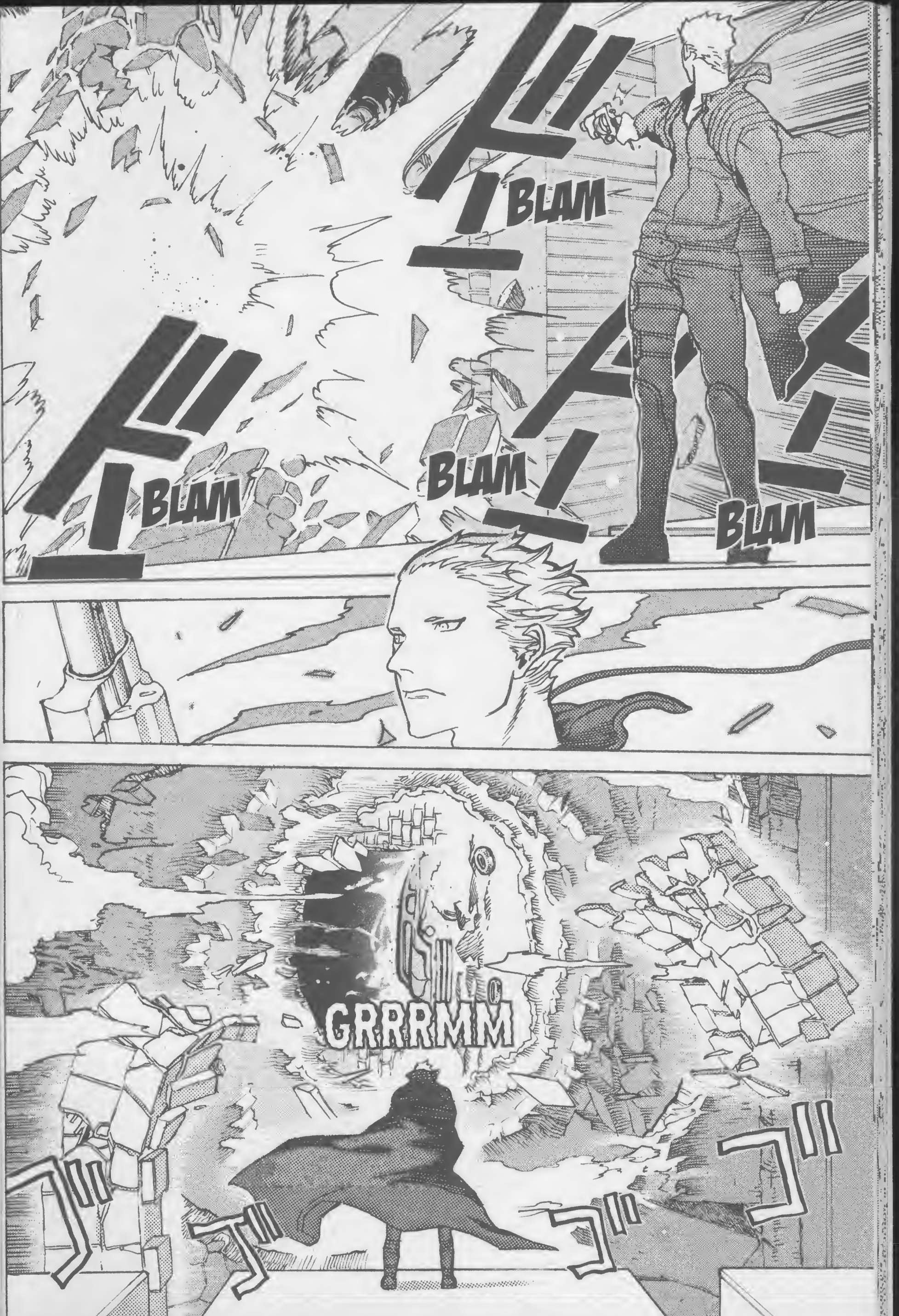
HA HA
HA HA

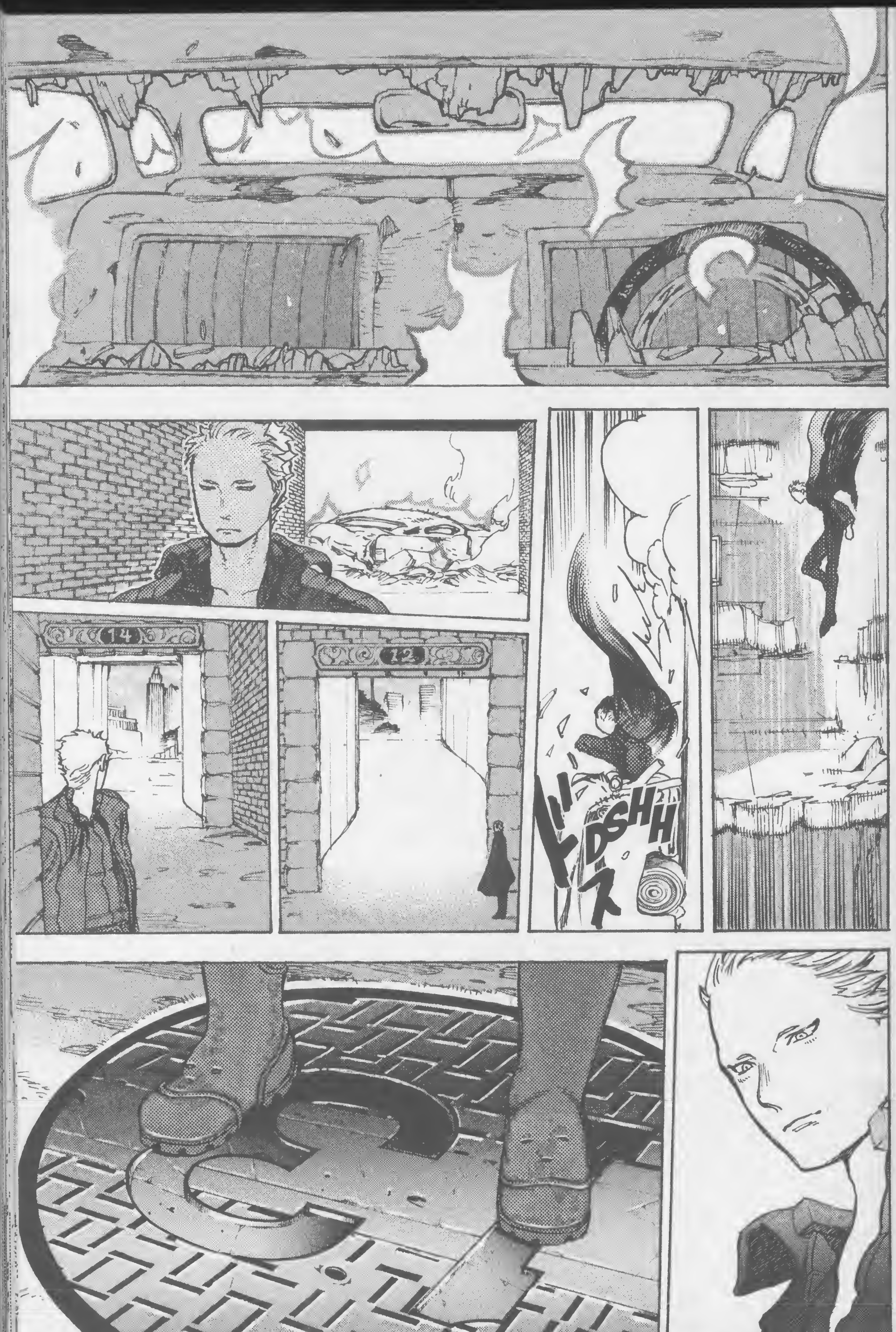

There's a facility that can make use of you.
You'll be able to fight on the front lines again.
The fulfilling times will come back around...
...or so I thought.
We're still in the testing stages.
Wh... why?
Why... does it... hurt?

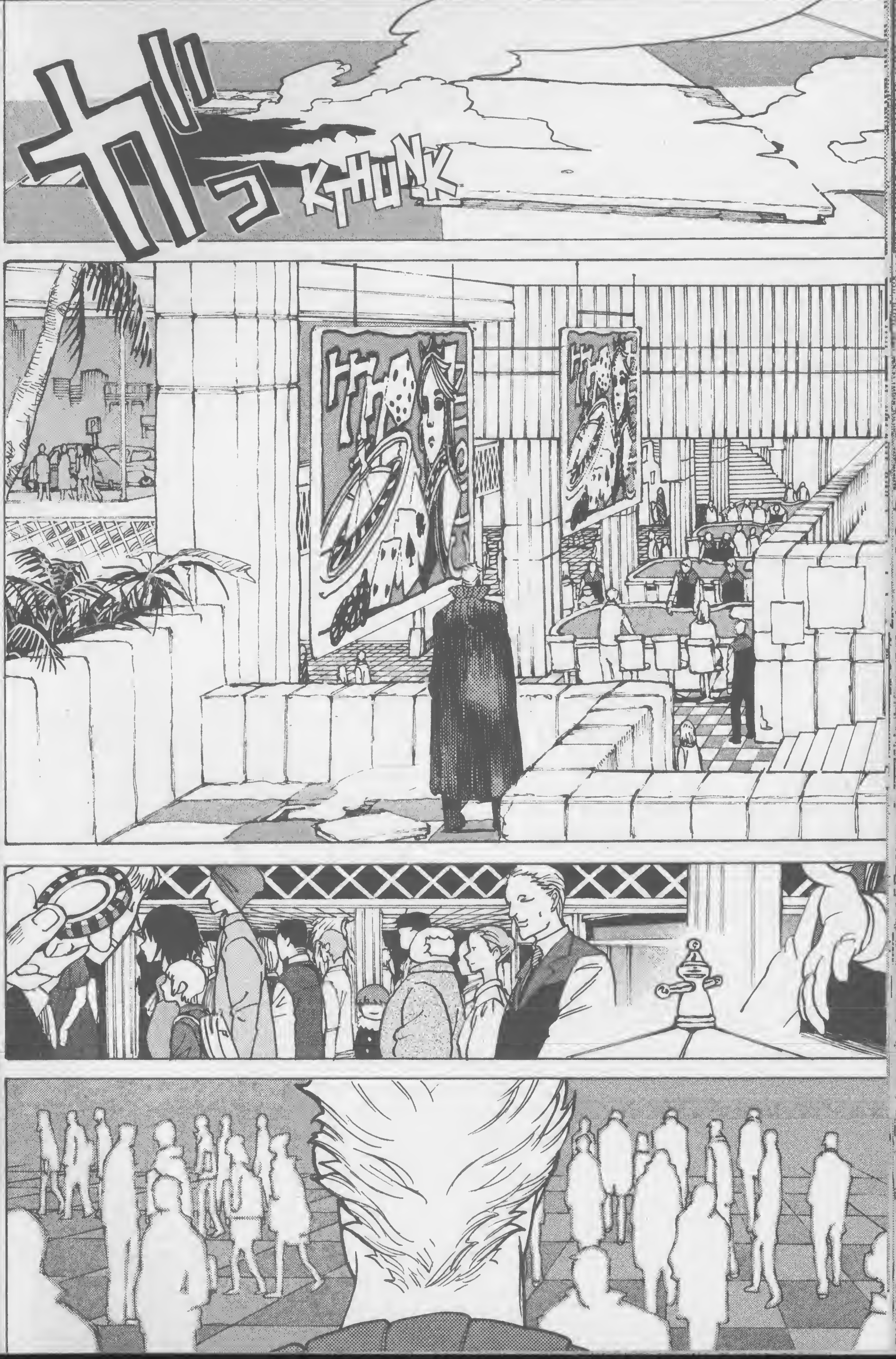

This is not what I sought.

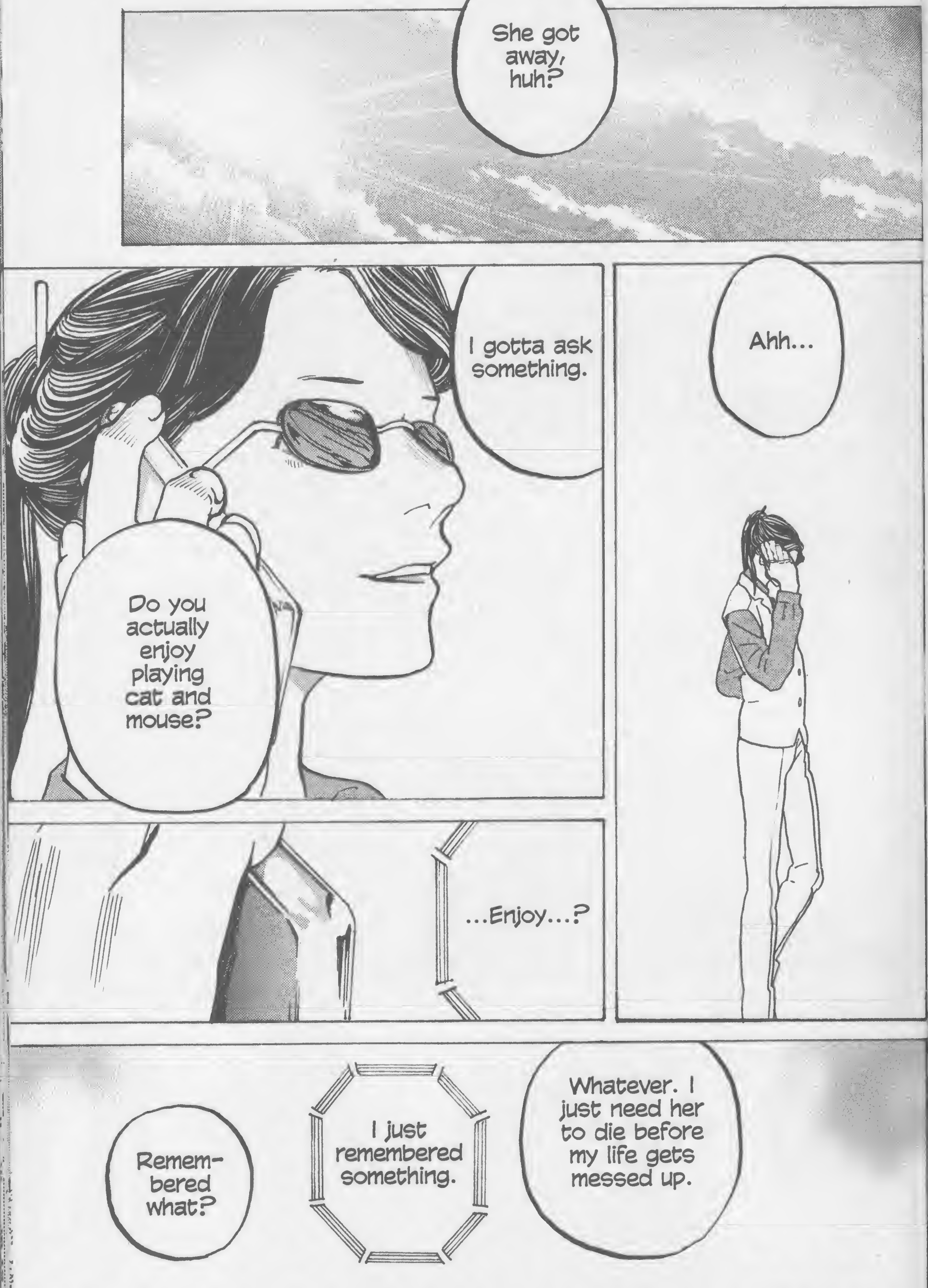

WHAM
SKEEE
TEK
ZSHH
…
カチ
Kchk

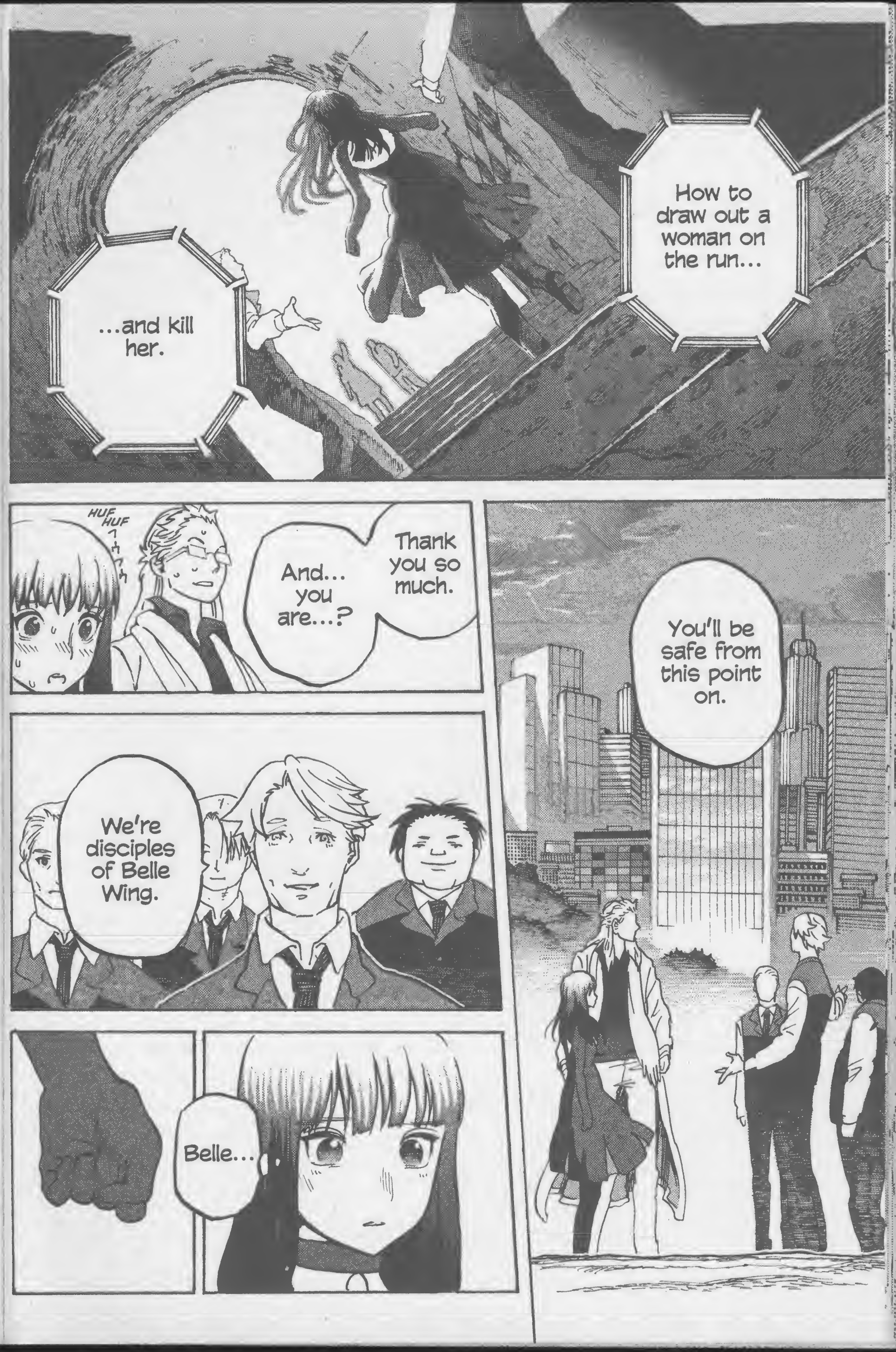

BLAM
BLAM
You were not what I wanted!
GDMM
KREEE
EEEE

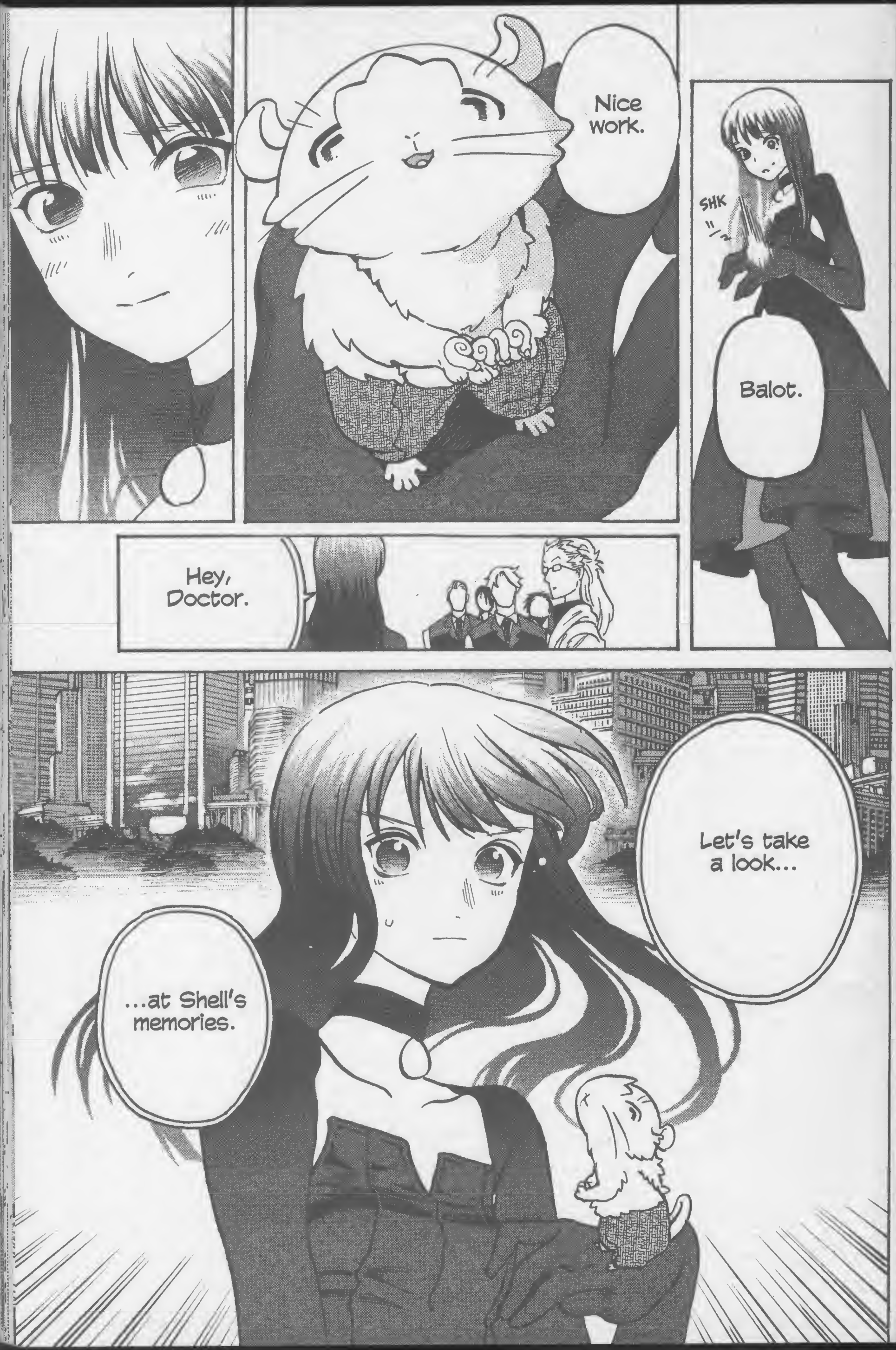

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
GRRRMM


14
12
DSHH


ガッ KTHUNK


She got away, huh?
Ahh...
I gotta ask something.
Do you actually enjoy playing cat and mouse?
...Enjoy...?
Whatever. I just need her to die before my life gets messed up.
I just remembered something.
Remembered what?

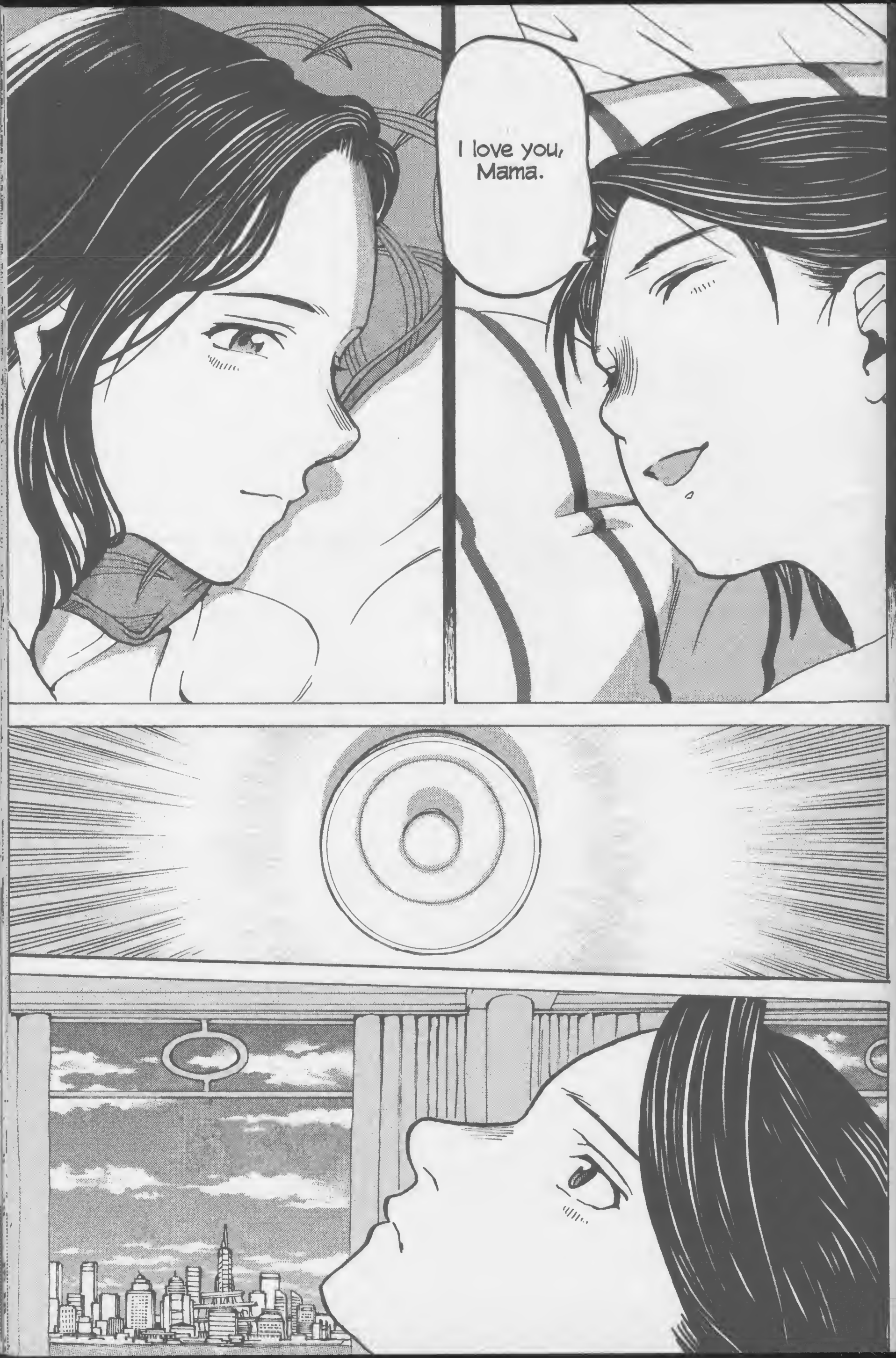

How to draw out a woman on the run...
...and kill her.
You'll be safe from this point on.
Thank you so much.
And... you are...?
HUF HUF
We're disciples of Belle Wing.
Belle...

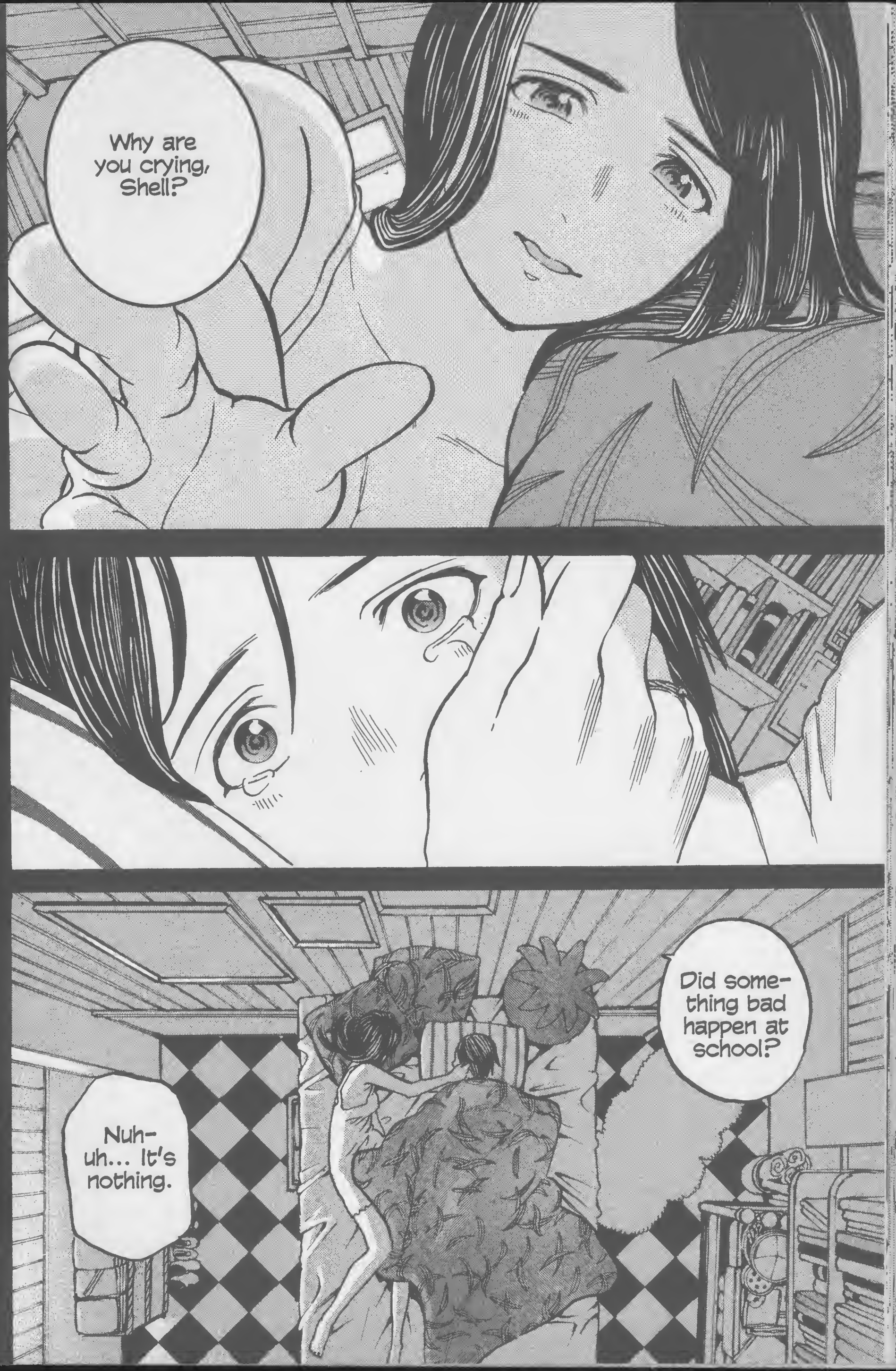

SHK
Balot.
Nice work.
Hey, Doctor.
Let's take a look...
...at Shell's memories.

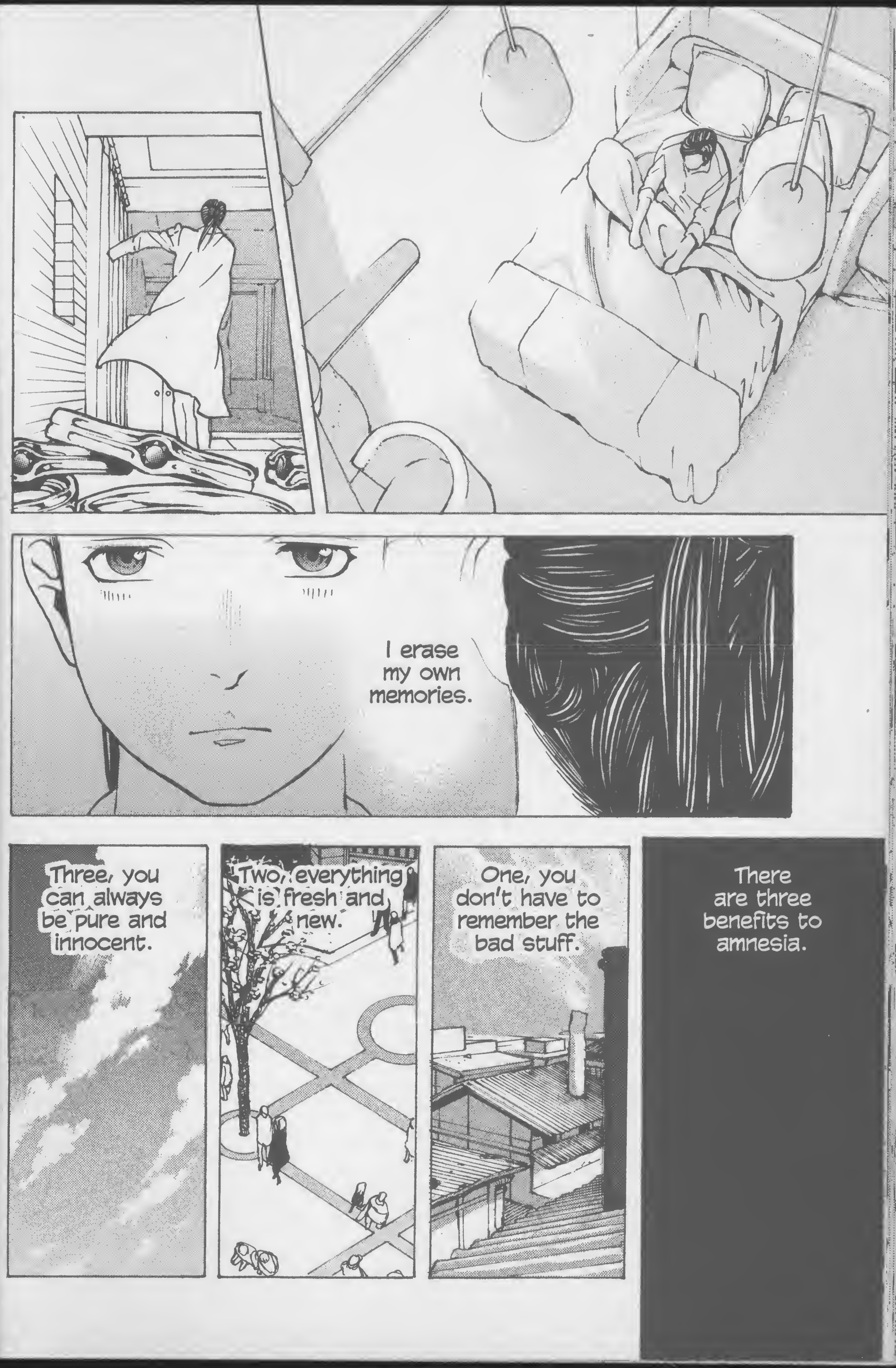
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

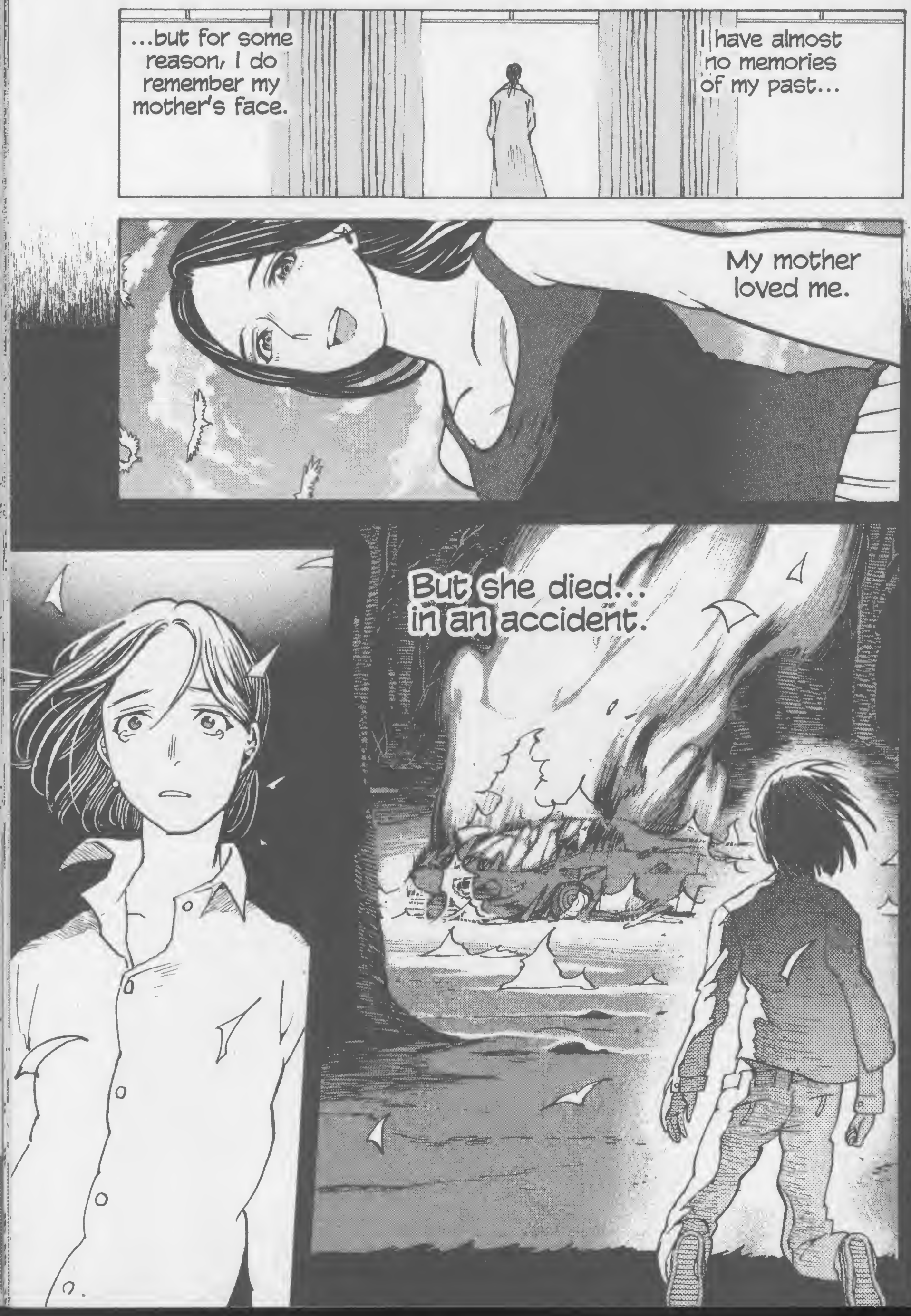
Chapter 28: Connecting Rod (3)

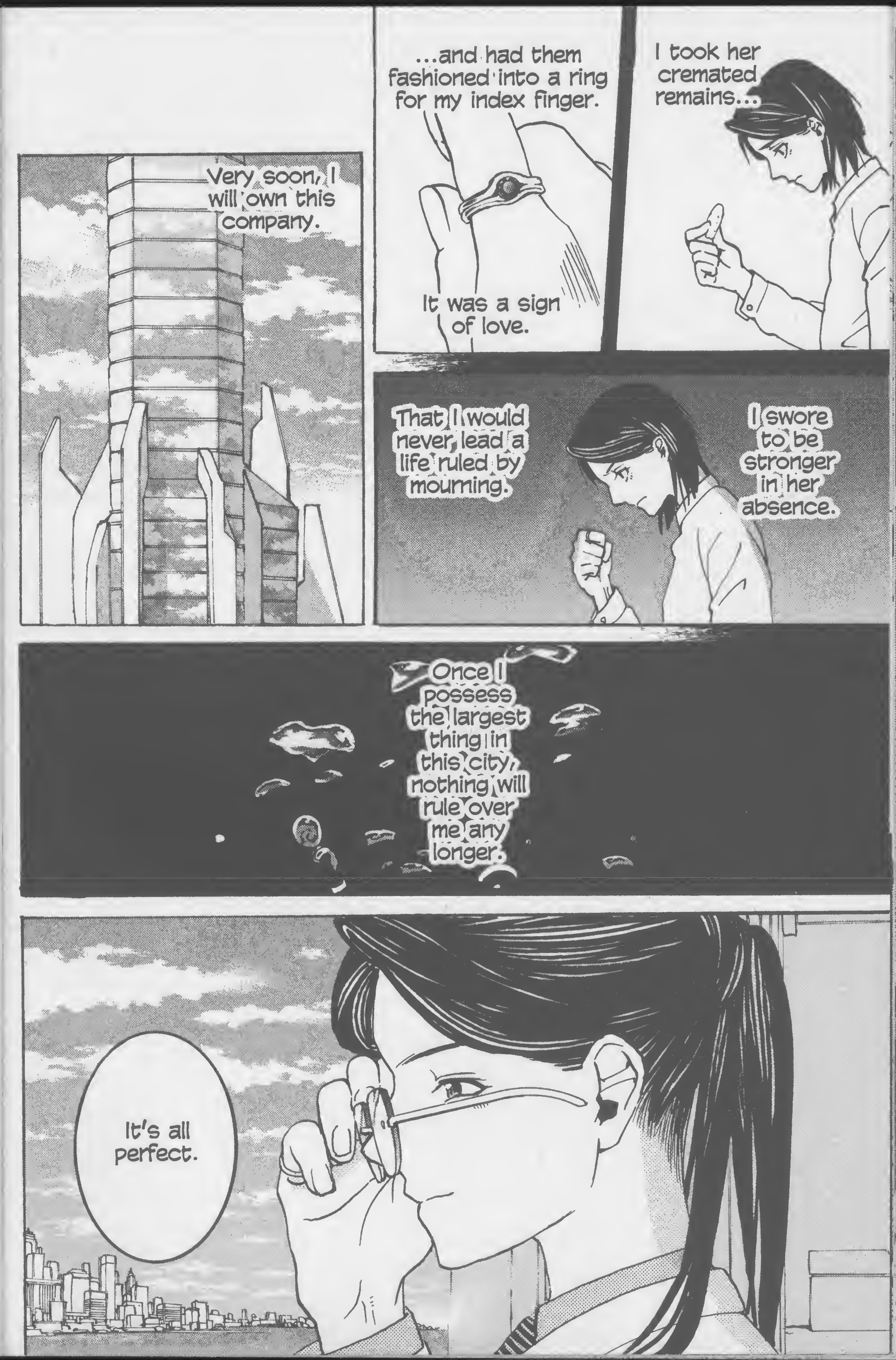
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

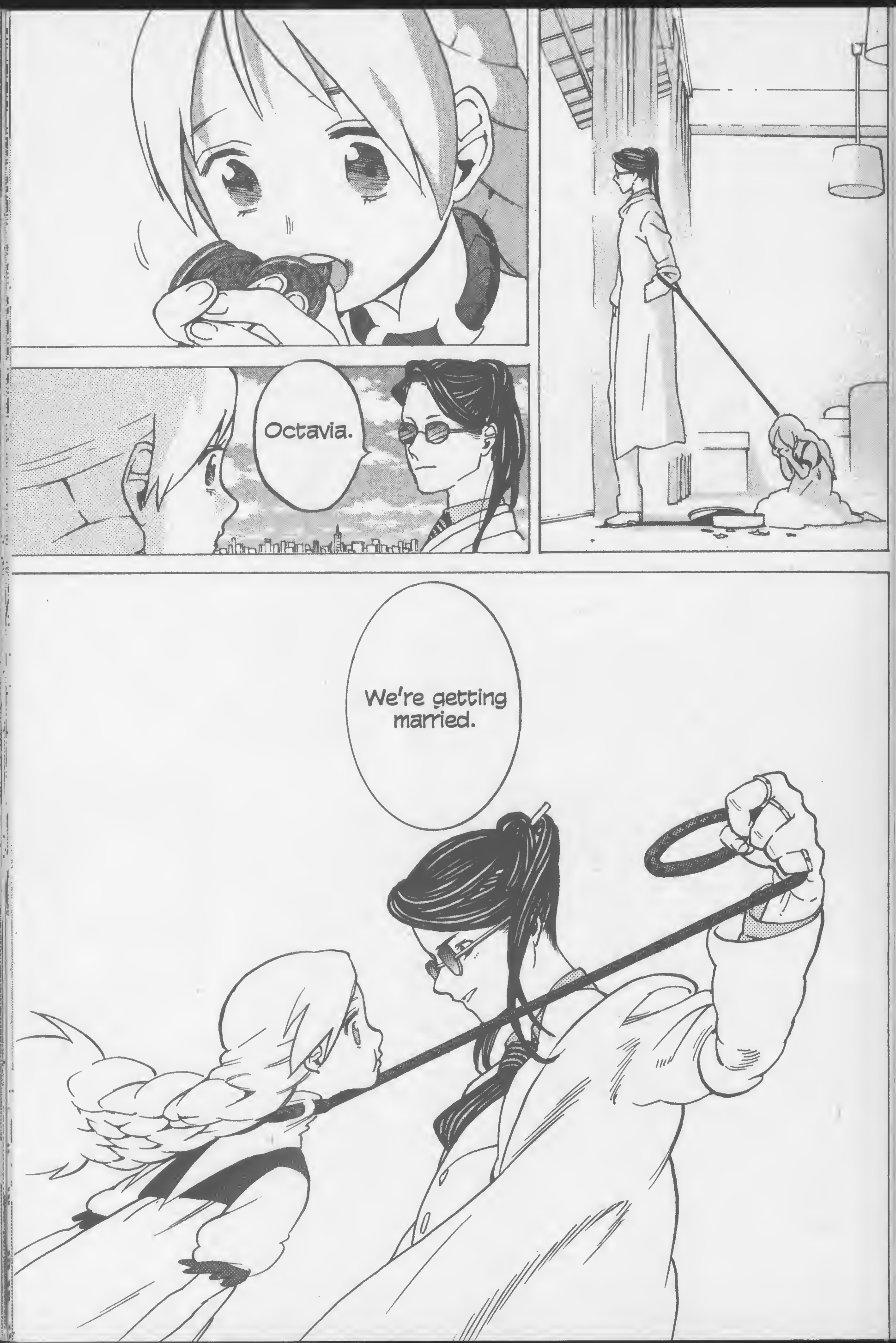

I love you, Mama.

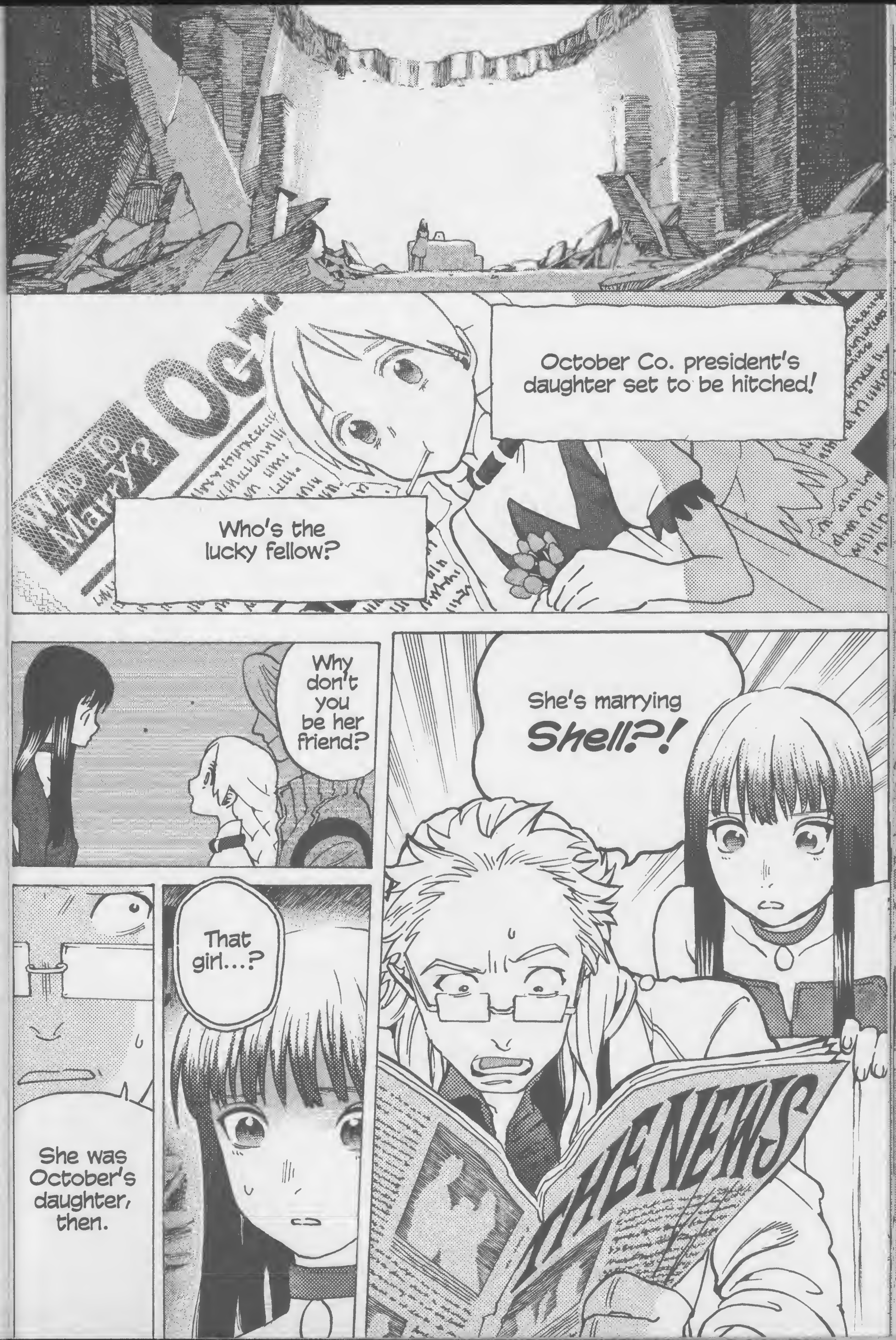

Why are you crying, Shell?
Did something bad happen at school?
Nuh-uh... It's nothing.

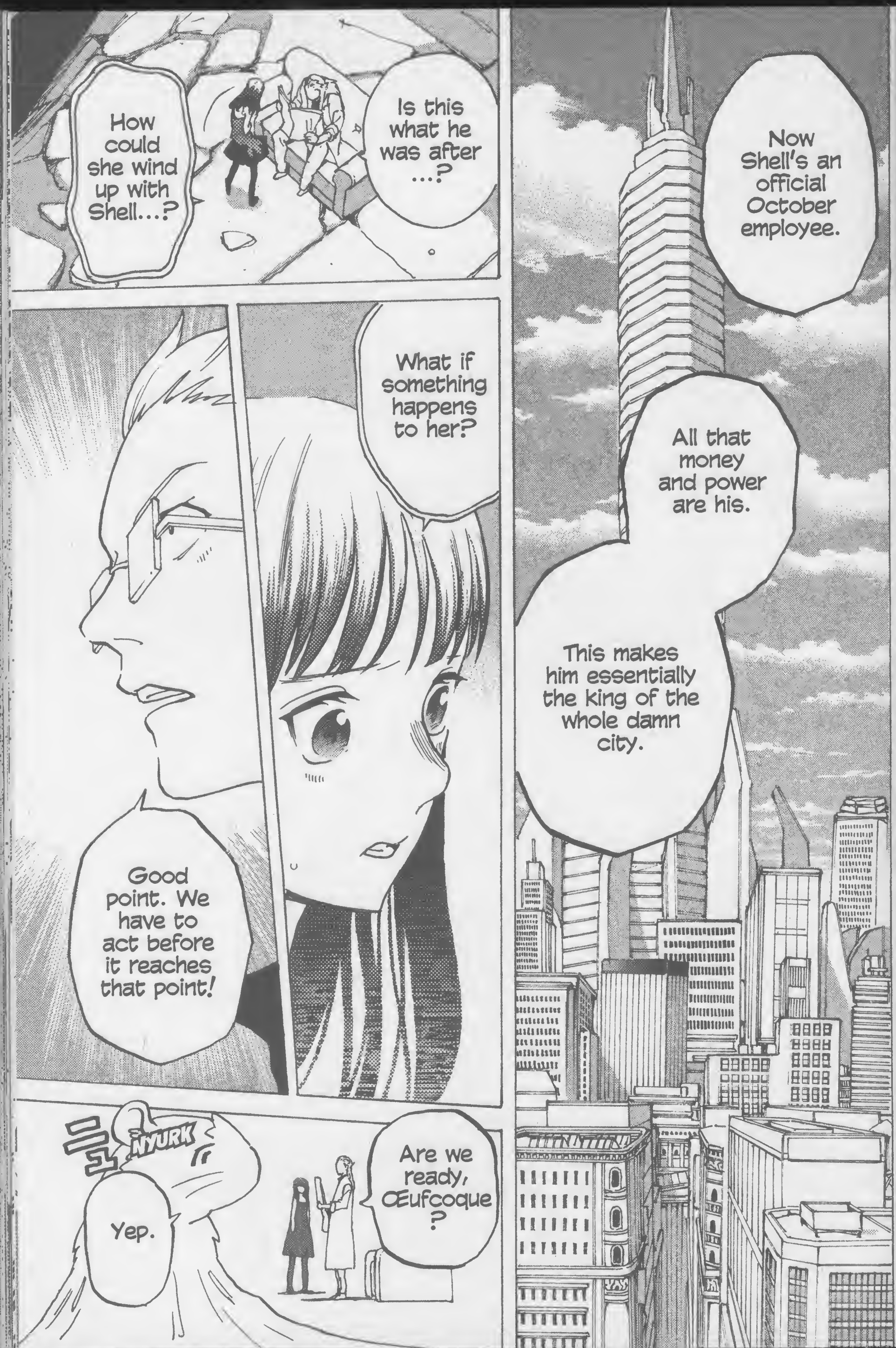

I erase my own memories.
There are three benefits to amnesia.
One, you don't have to remember the bad stuff.
Two, everything is fresh and new.
Three, you can always be pure and innocent.

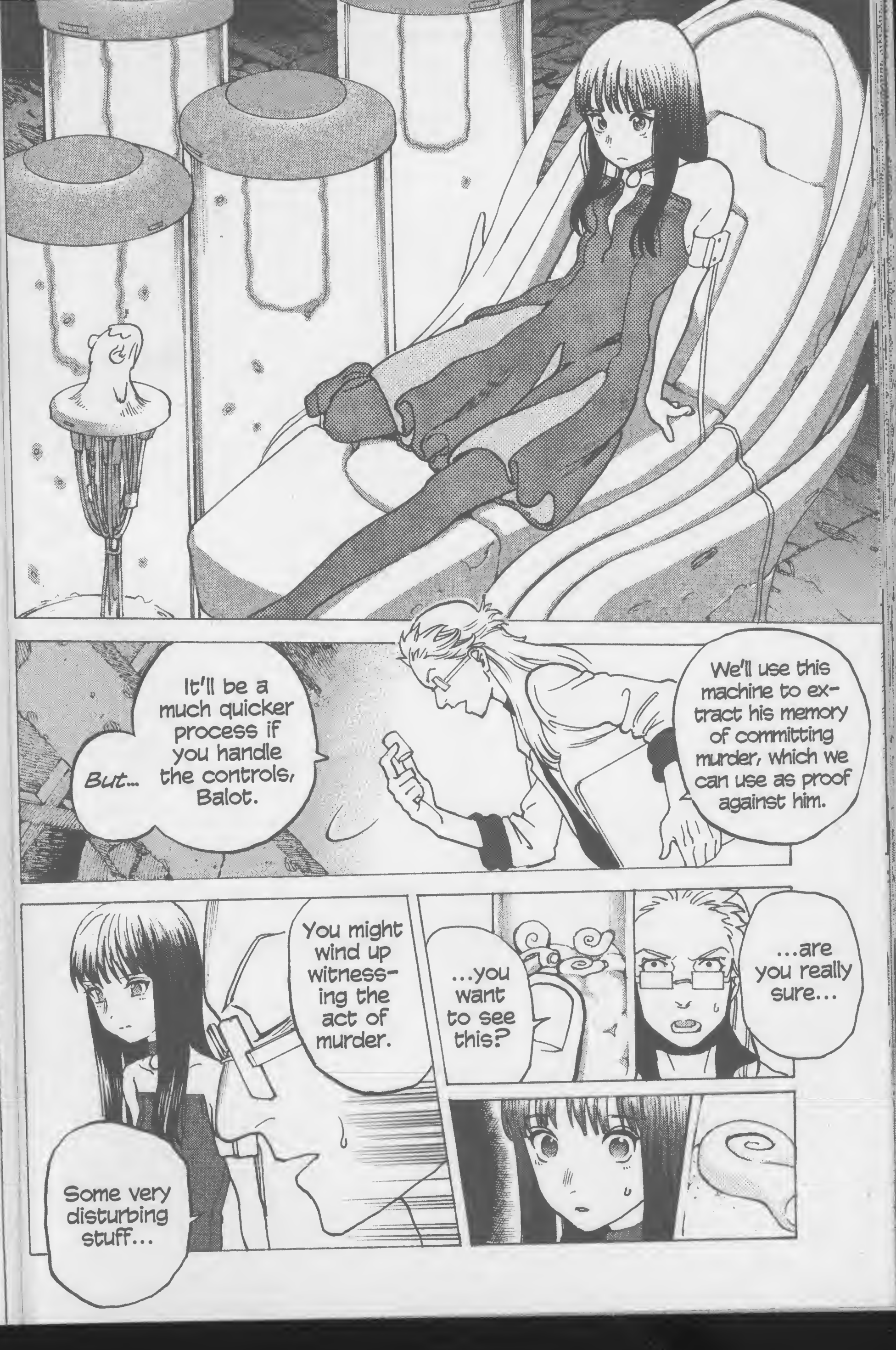

I have almost no memories of my past...
...but for some reason, I do remember my mother's face.
My mother loved me.
But she died... in an accident.

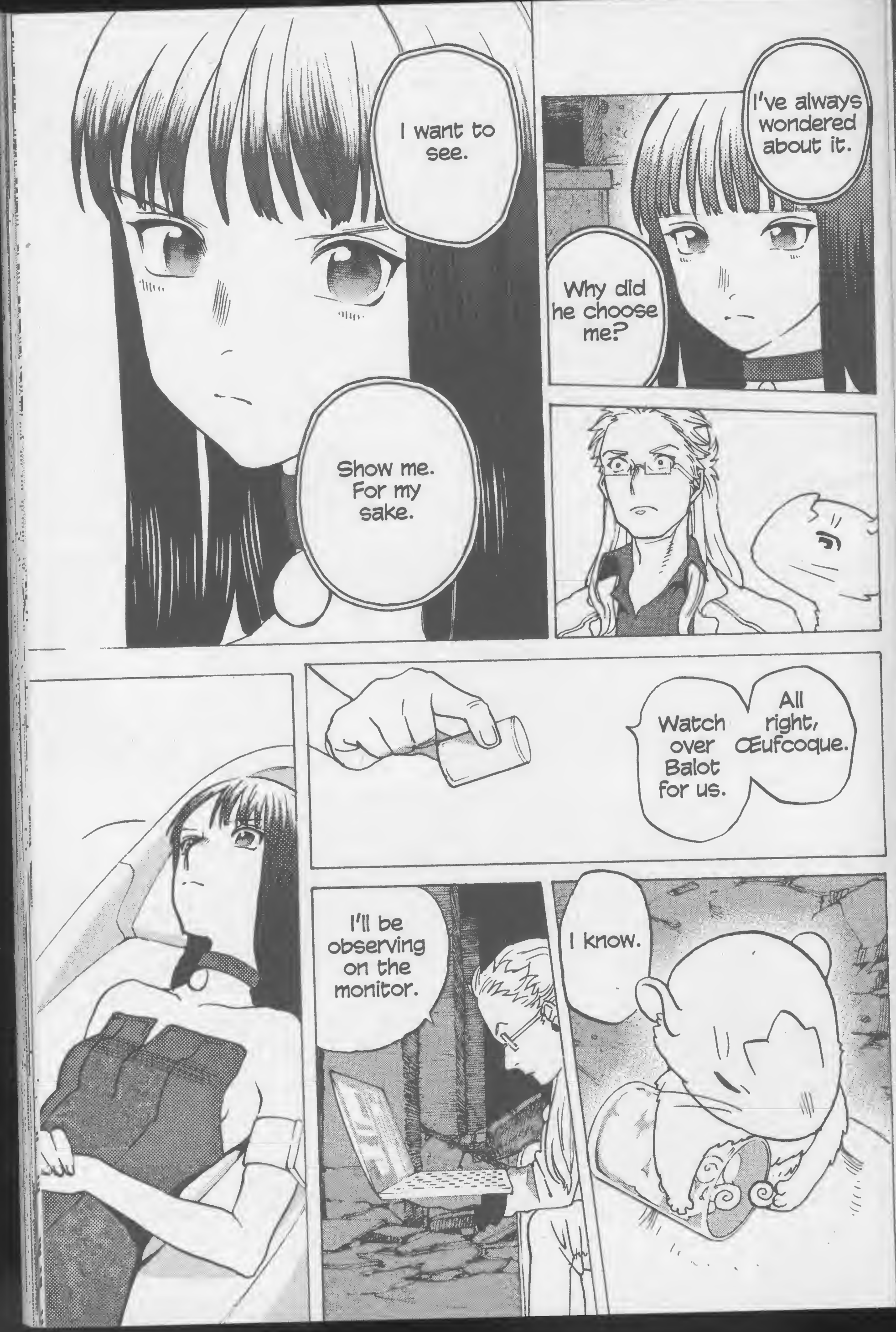

I took her cremated remains...
...and had them fashioned into a ring for my index finger.
It was a sign of love.
I swore to be stronger in her absence.
That I would never lead a life ruled by mourning.
Very soon, I will own this company.
Once I possess the largest thing in this city, nothing will rule over me any longer.
It's all perfect.

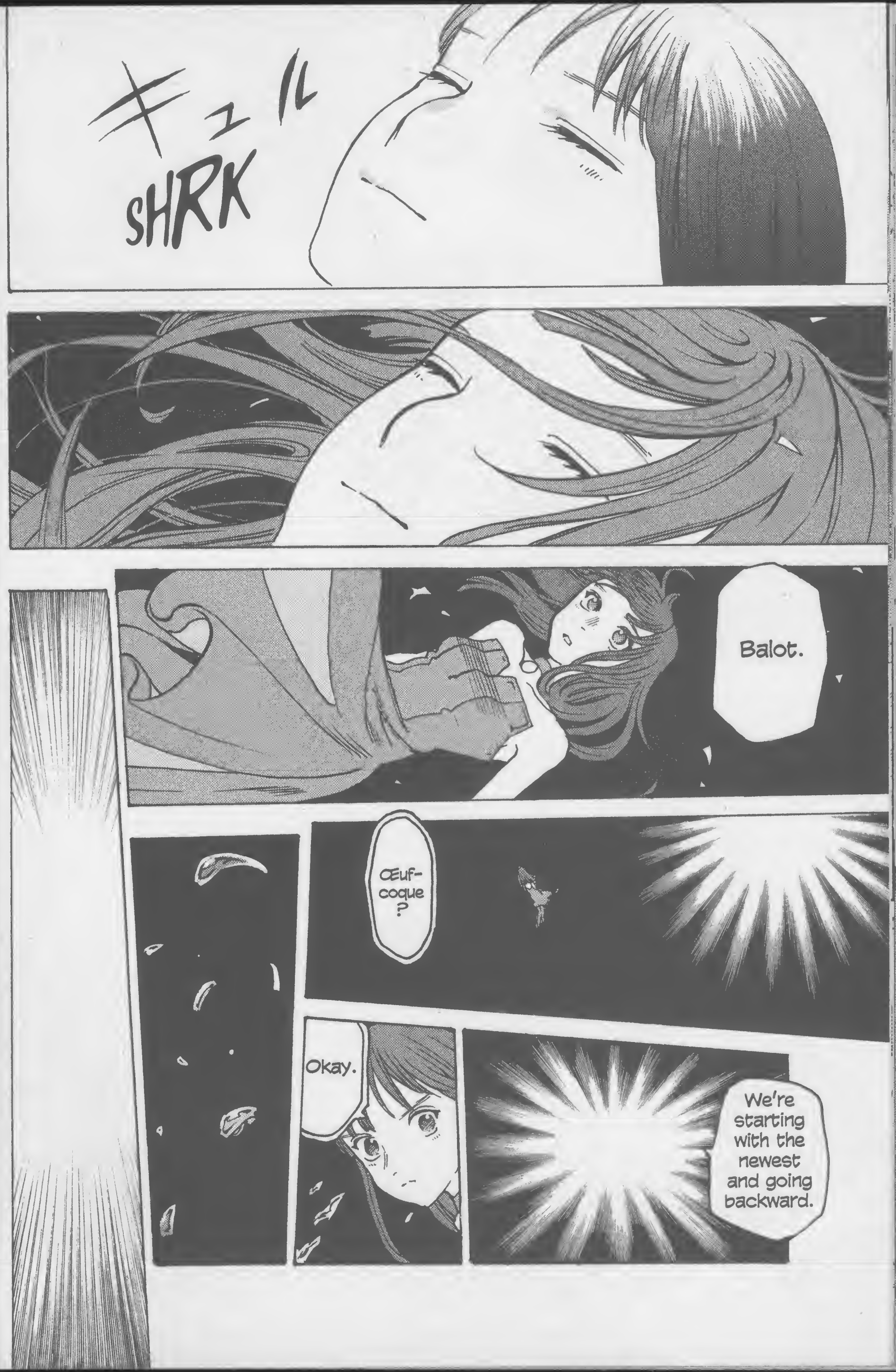

Octavia.
We're getting married.

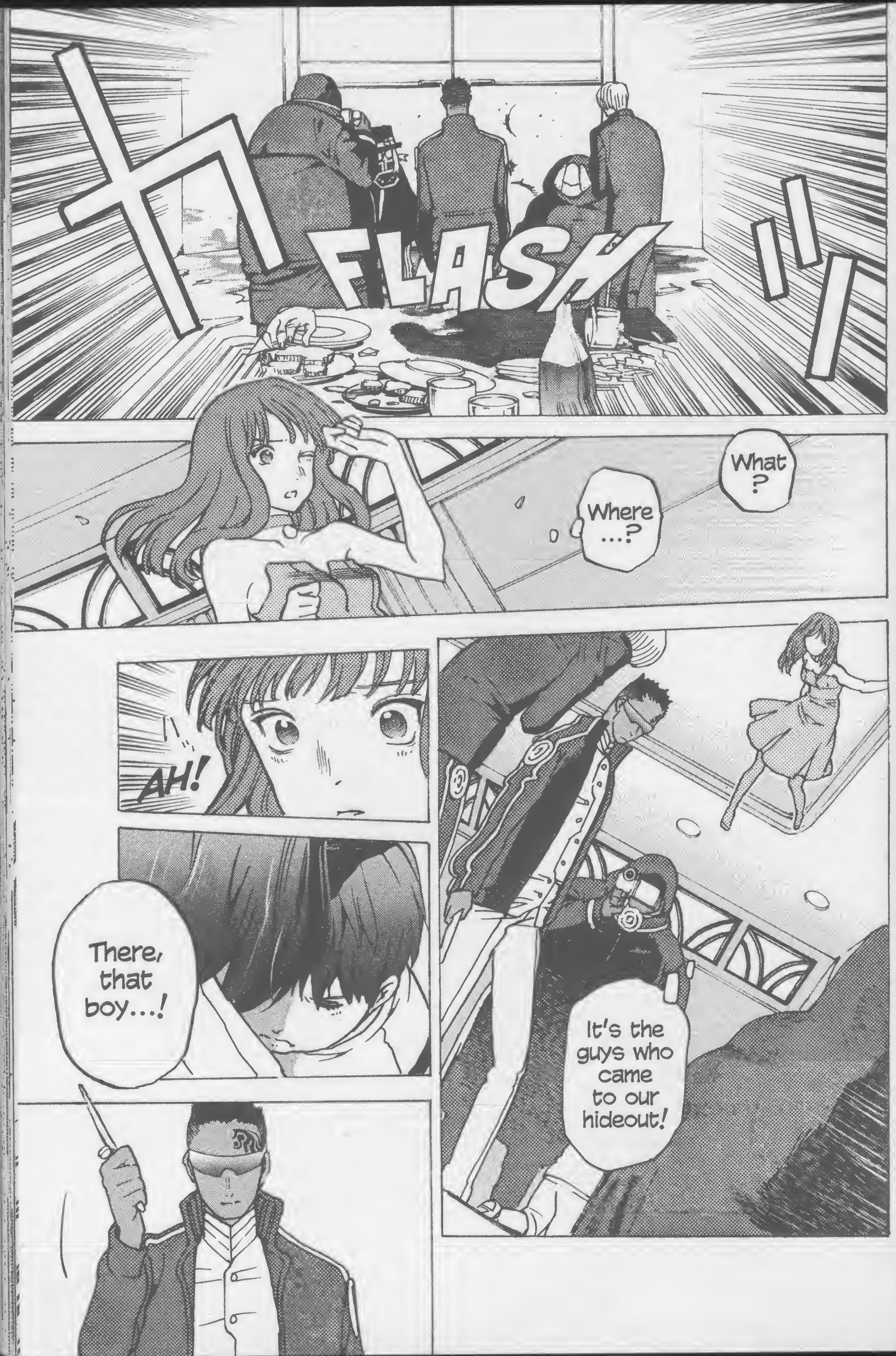

October Co. president's daughter set to be hitched!
Who To Marry?
OG
Who's the lucky fellow?
She's marrying *Shell?!*
Why don't you be her friend?
That girl...?
She was October's daughter, then.
THE NEWS

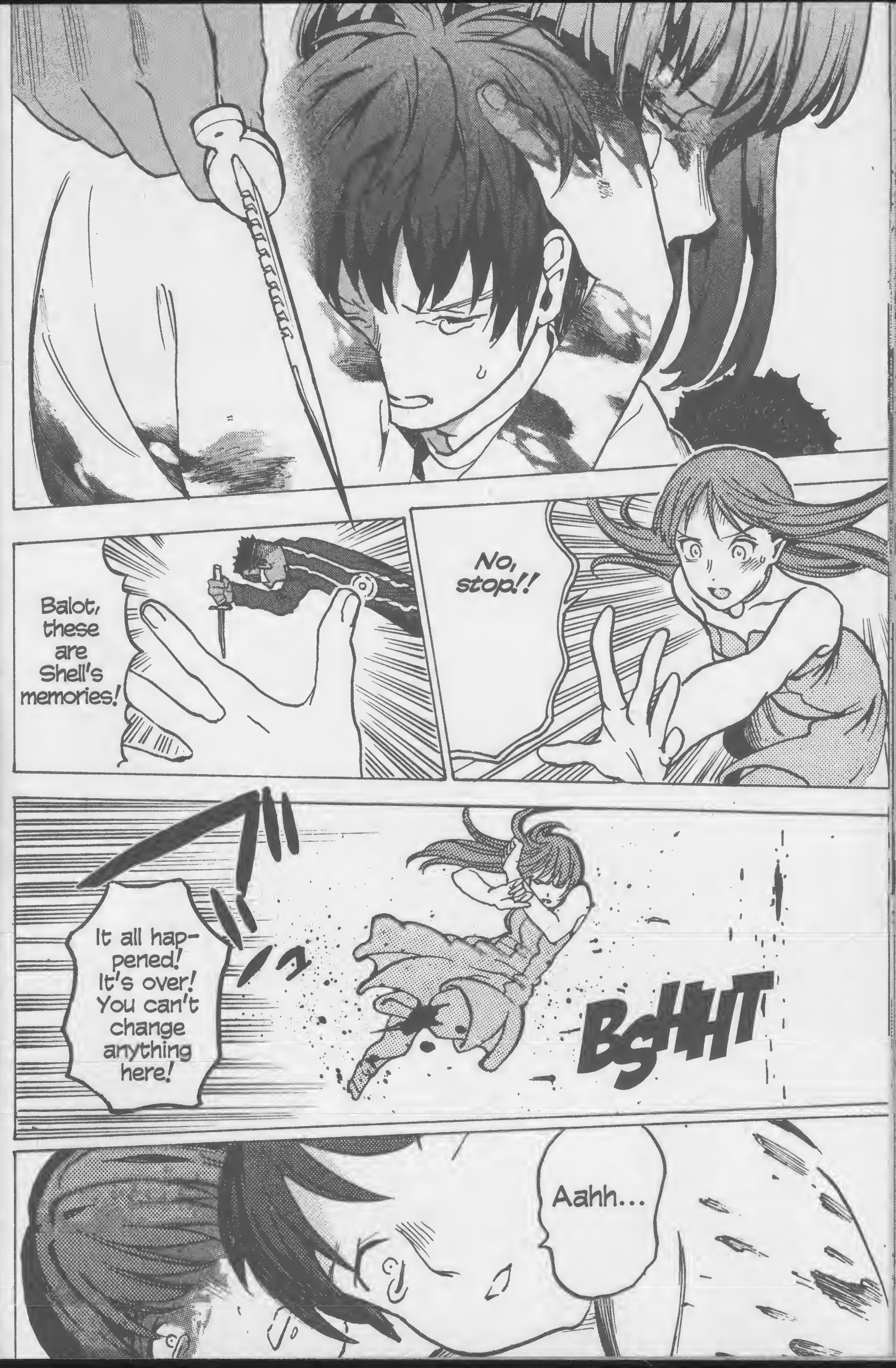

Now Shell's an official October employee.
All that money and power are his.
This makes him essentially the king of the whole damn city.
Is this what he was after ...?
How could she wind up with Shell...?
What if something happens to her?
Good point. We have to act before it reaches that point!
Are we ready, Œufcoque?
NYURK
Yep.

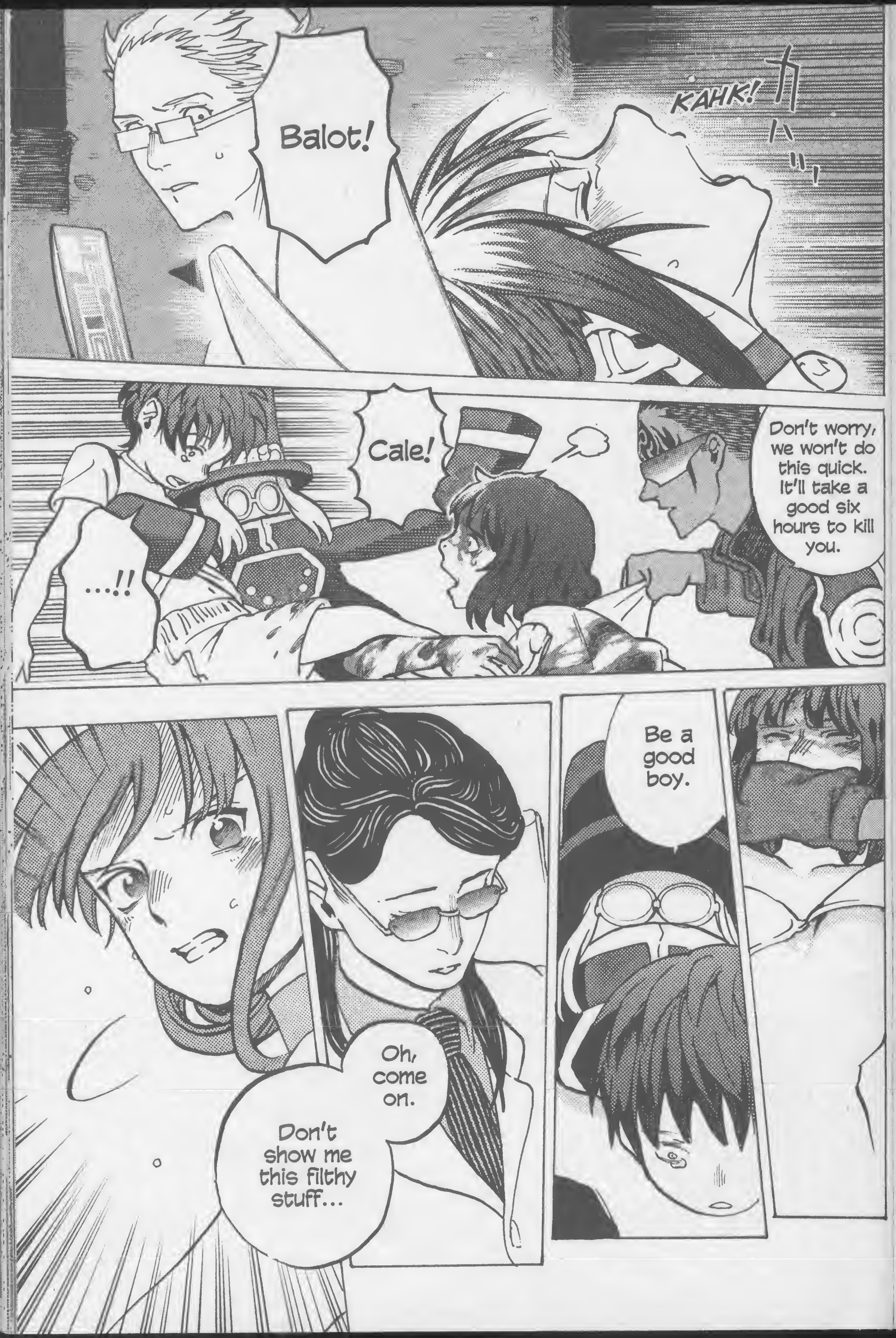

We'll use this machine to extract his memory of committing murder, which we can use as proof against him.
But...
It'll be a much quicker process if you handle the controls, Balot.
...are you really sure...
...you want to see this?
You might wind up witnessing the act of murder.
Some very disturbing stuff...

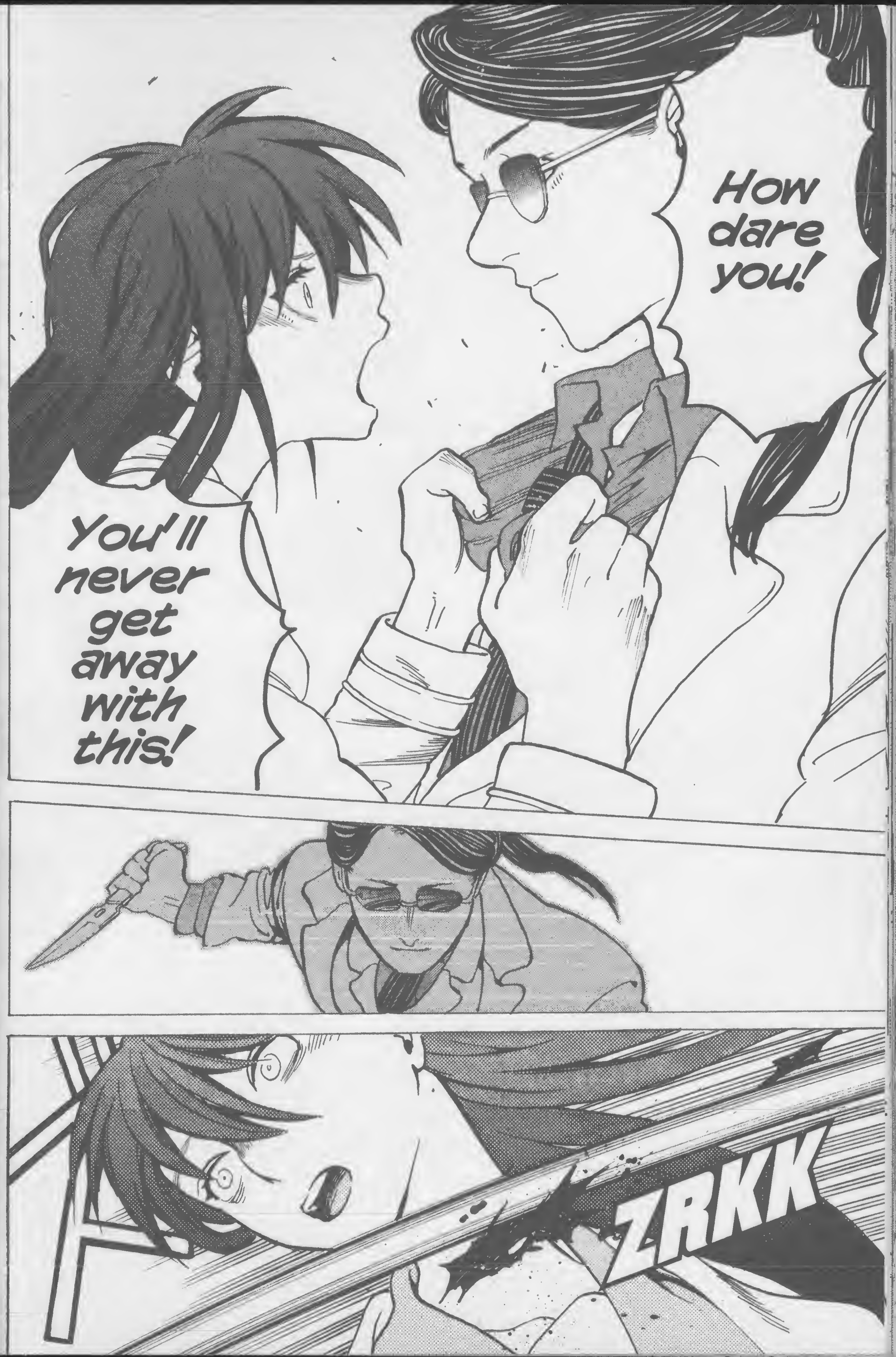

I've always wondered about it.
Why did he choose me?
I want to see.
Show me. For my sake.
All right, Œufcoque.
Watch over Balot for us.
I know.
I'll be observing on the monitor.

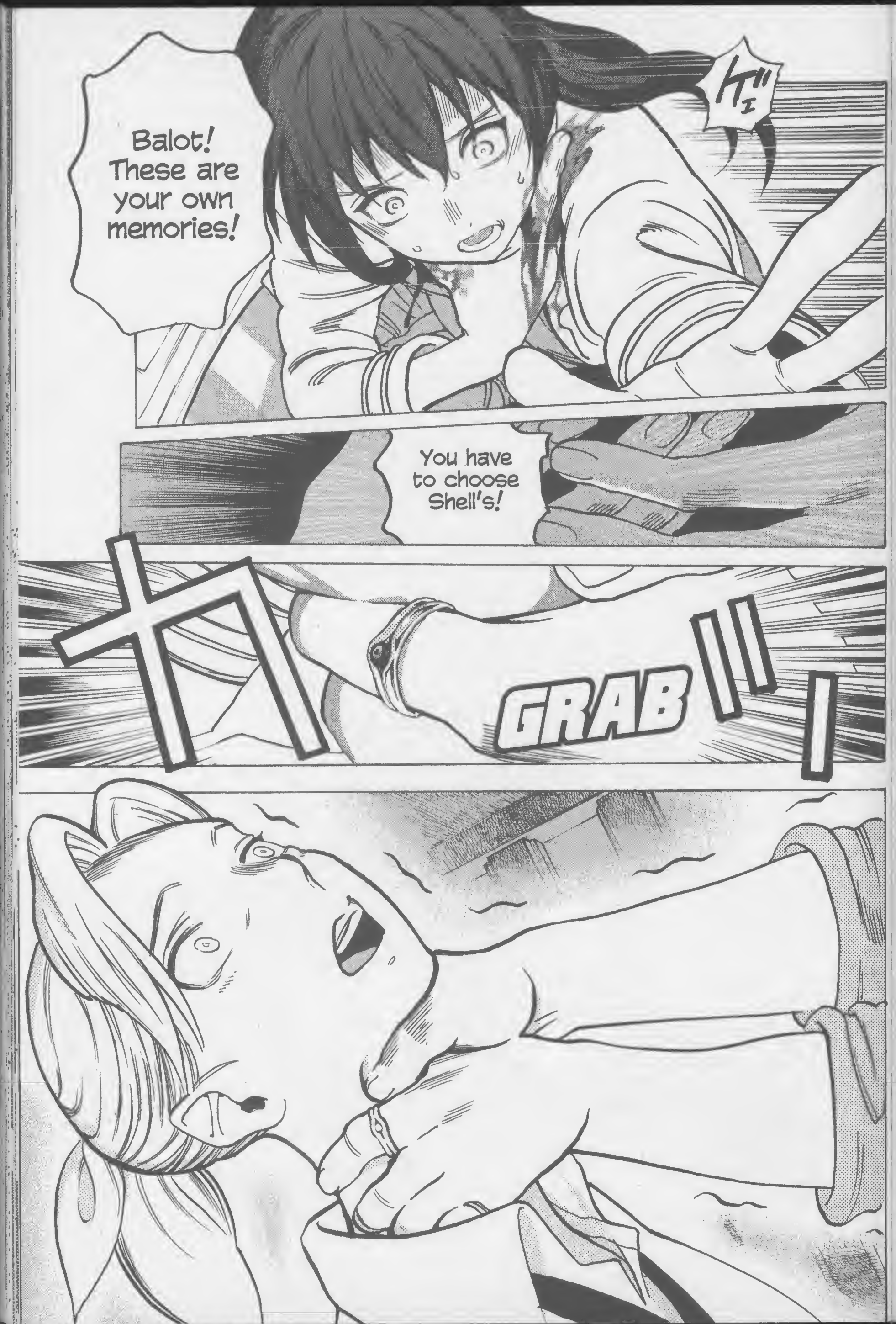

キュル
SHRK
Balot.
Œuf-coque?
We're starting with the newest and going backward.
Okay.

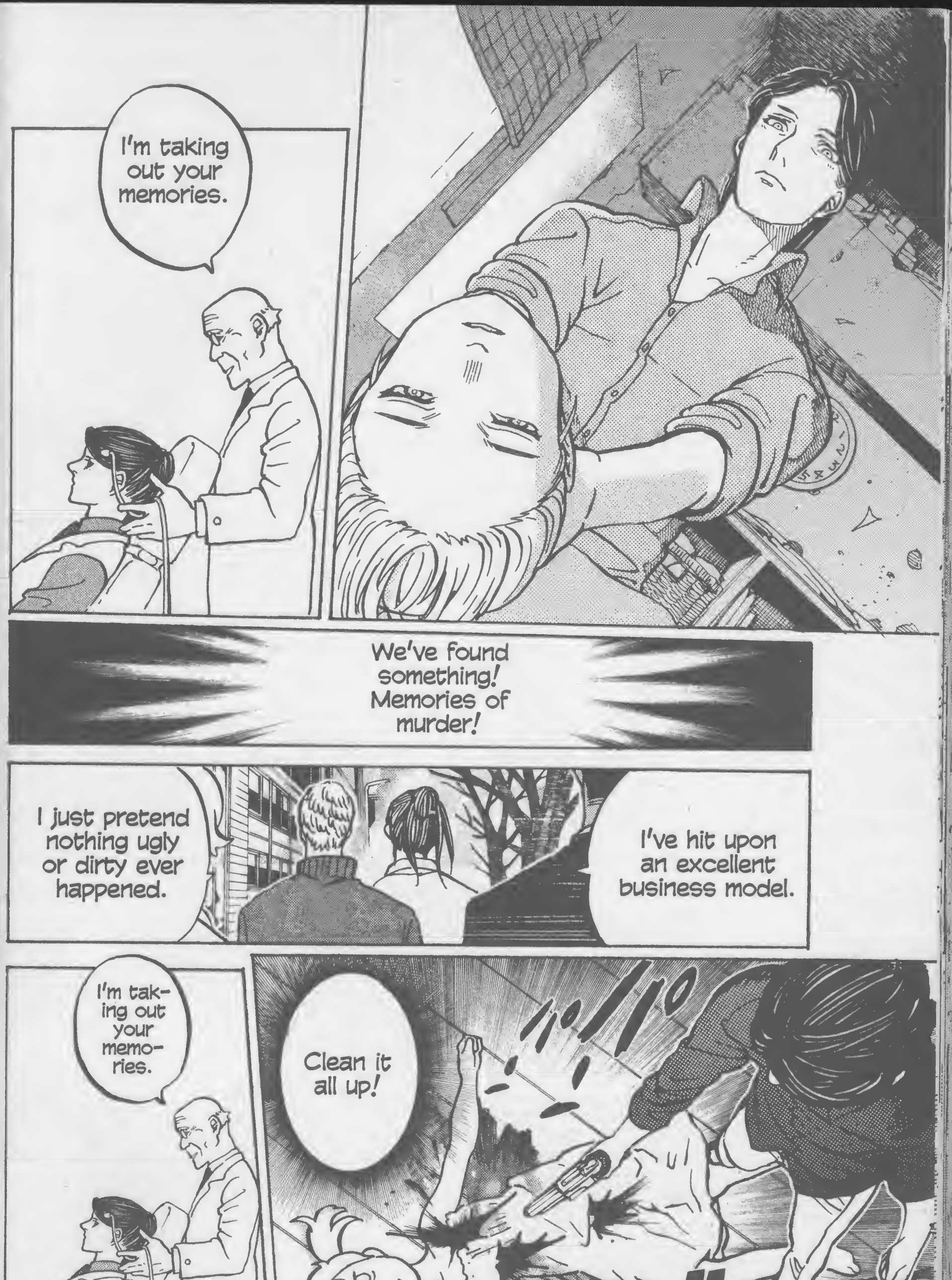

カッ
FLASH
What?
Where...?
AH!
There, that boy...!
It's the guys who came to our hideout!

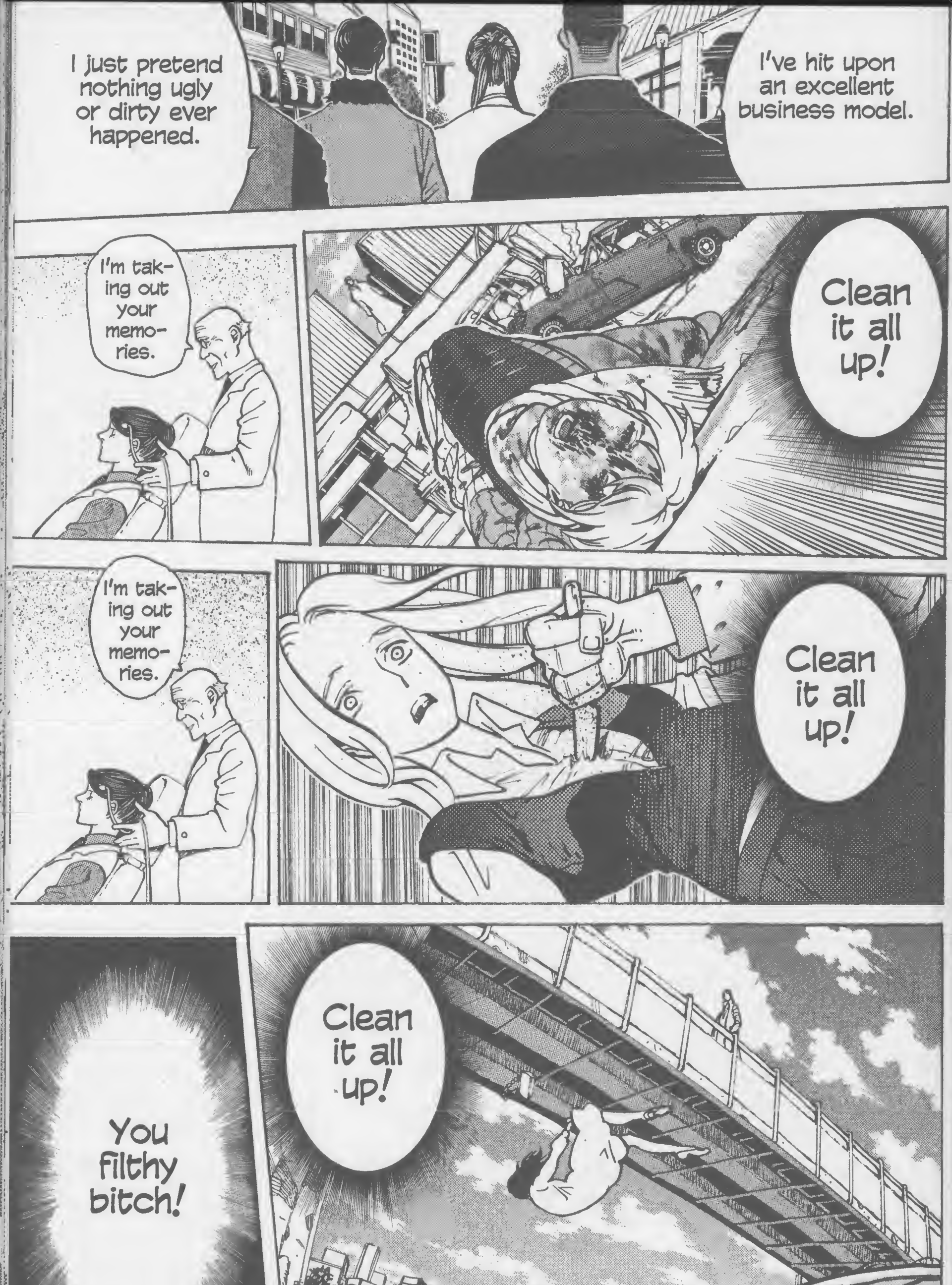

No, stop!!
Balot, these are Shell's memories!
It all happened! It's over! You can't change anything here!
BSHHT
Aahh...

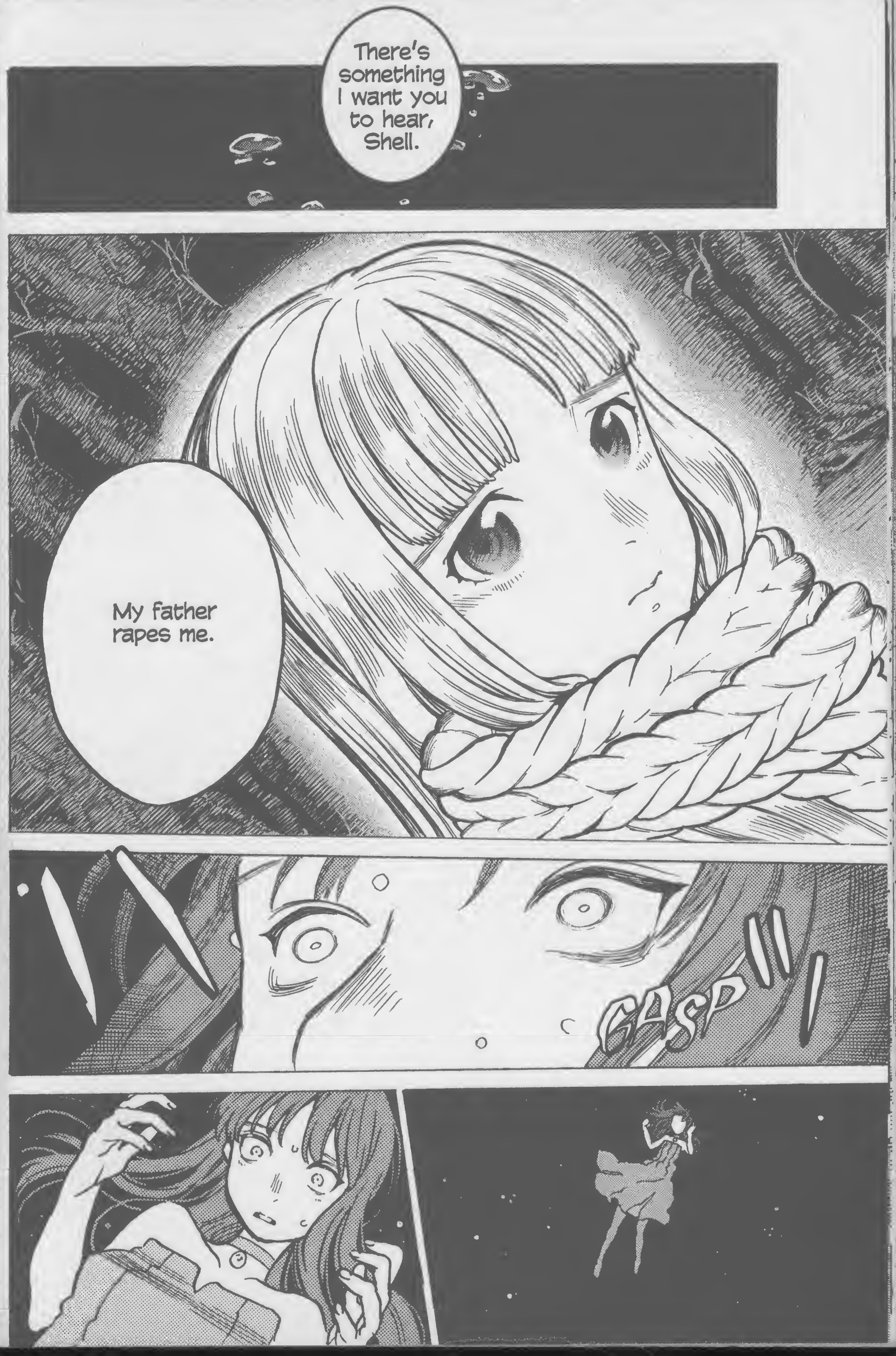

KAHK!
Balot!
Don't worry, we won't do this quick. It'll take a good six hours to kill you.
Cale!
...!!
Be a good boy.
Oh, come on.
Don't show me this filthy stuff...

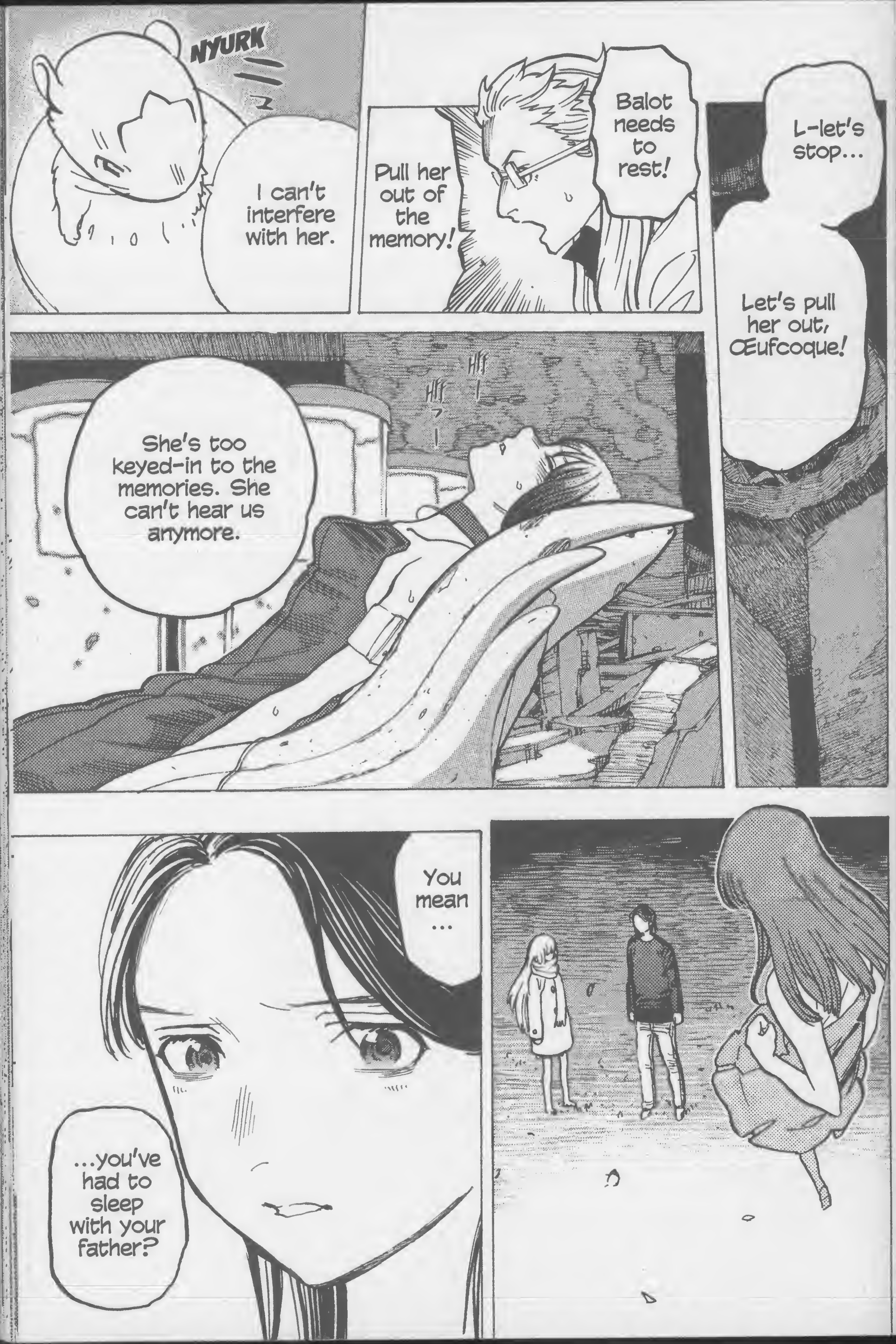

How dare you!
You'll never get away with this!
ZRKK

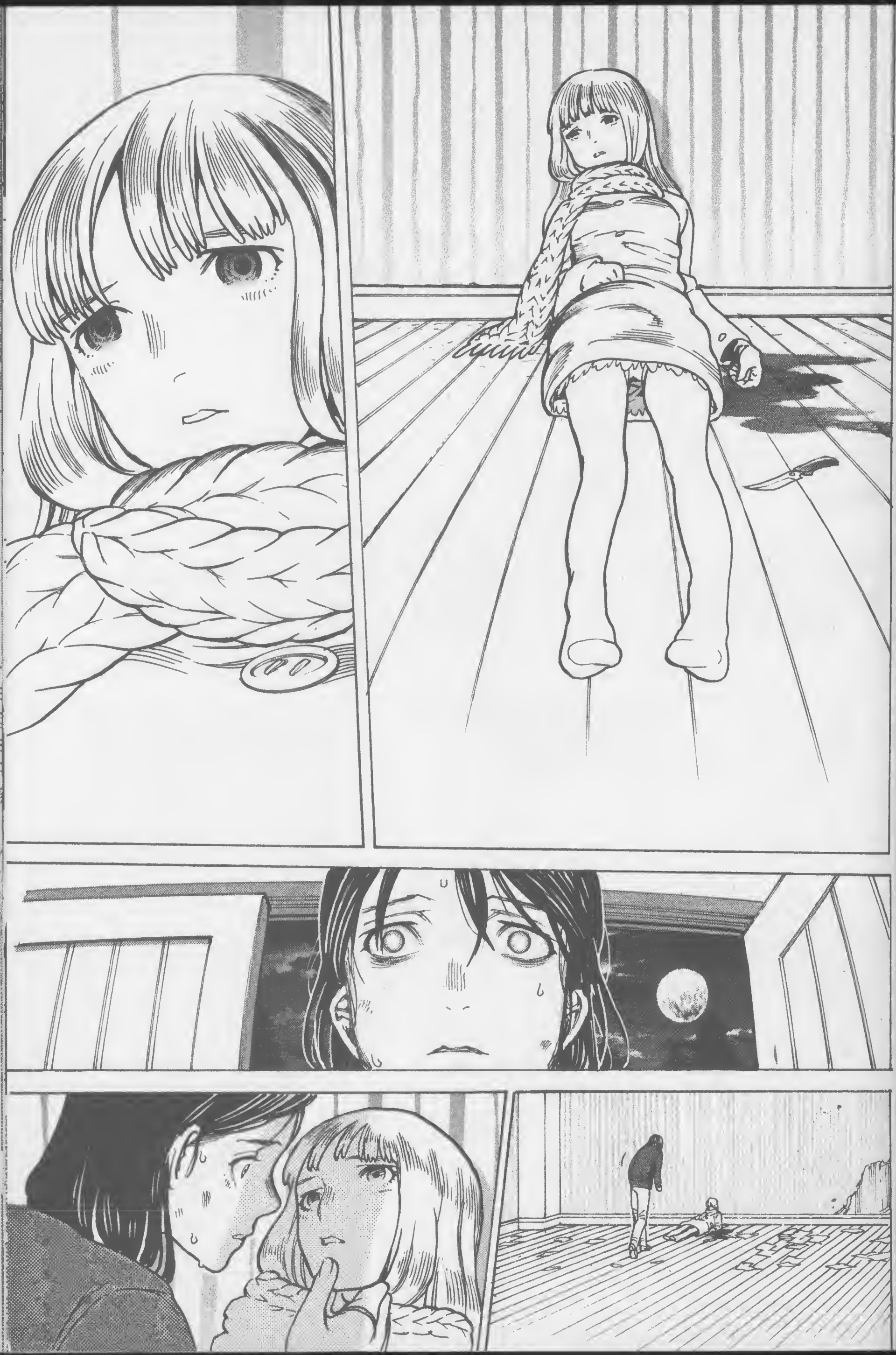

Balot! These are your own memories!
You have to choose Shell's!
GRAB

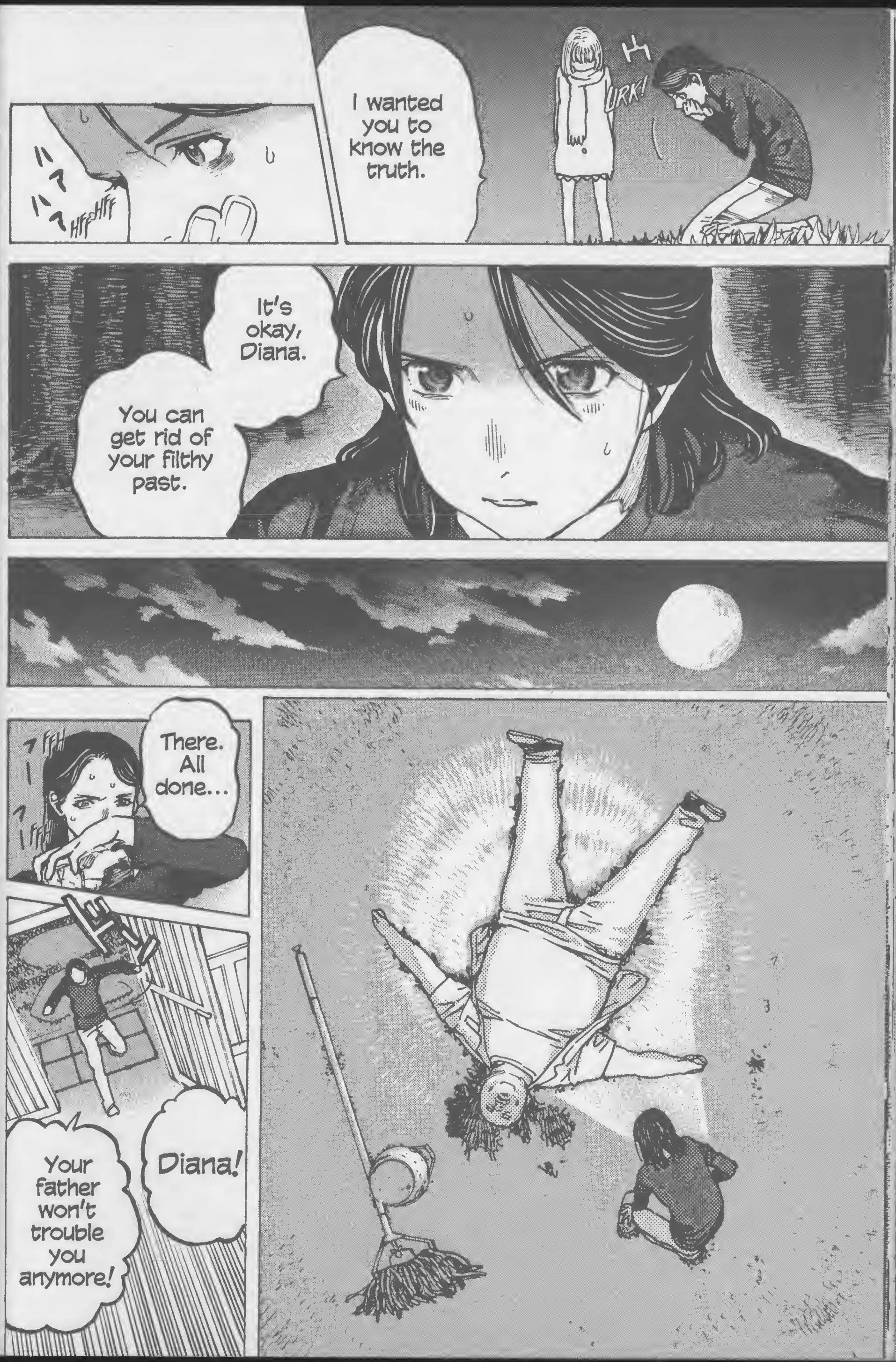

I'm taking out your memories.
We've found something! Memories of murder!
I've hit upon an excellent business model.
I just pretend nothing ugly or dirty ever happened.
Clean it all up!
PAM PAM PAM
I'm taking out your memories.

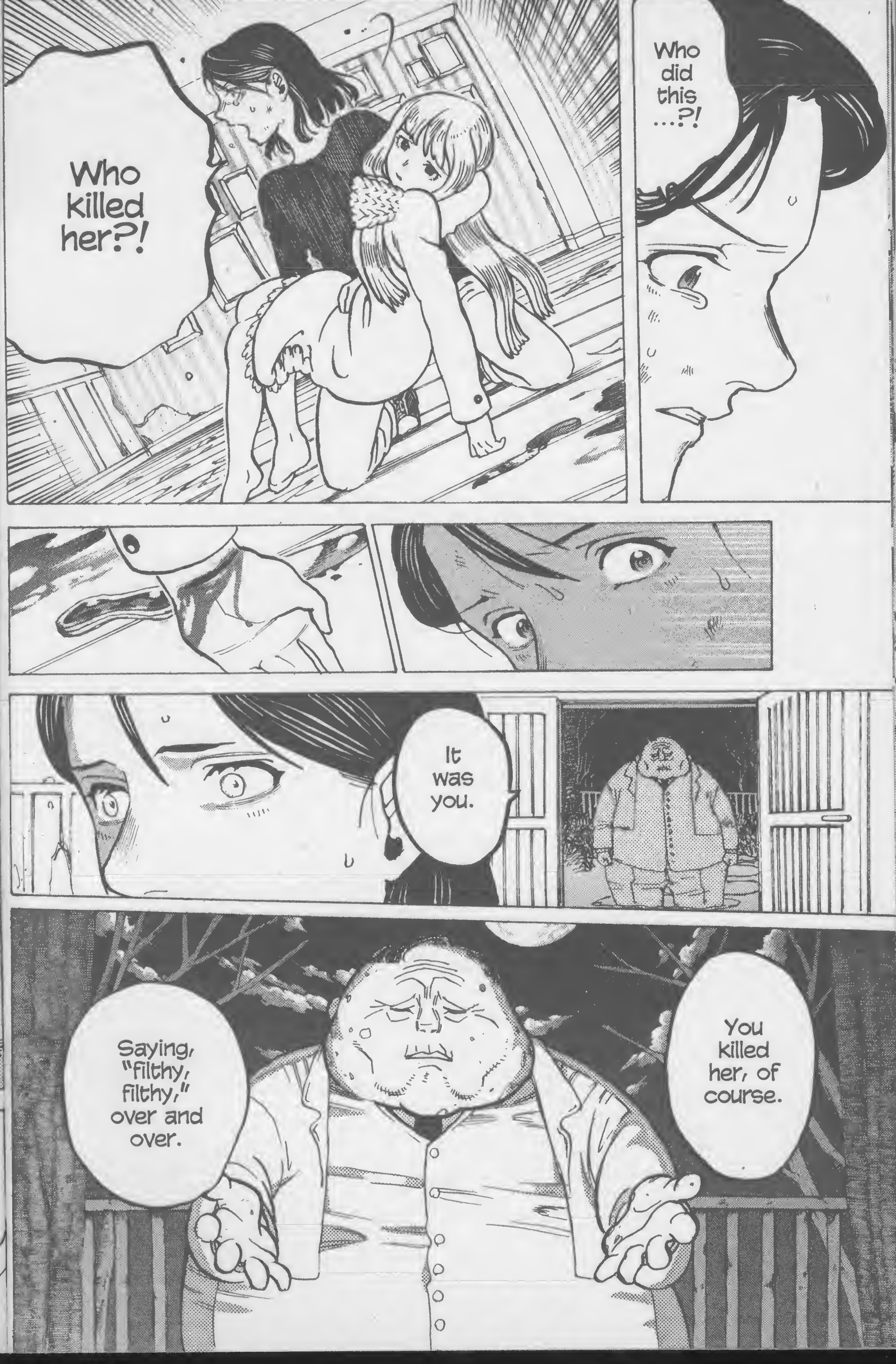

I've hit upon an excellent business model.
I just pretend nothing ugly or dirty ever happened.
Clean it all up!
I'm taking out your memories.
Clean it all up!
I'm taking out your memories.
Clean it all up!
You filthy bitch!

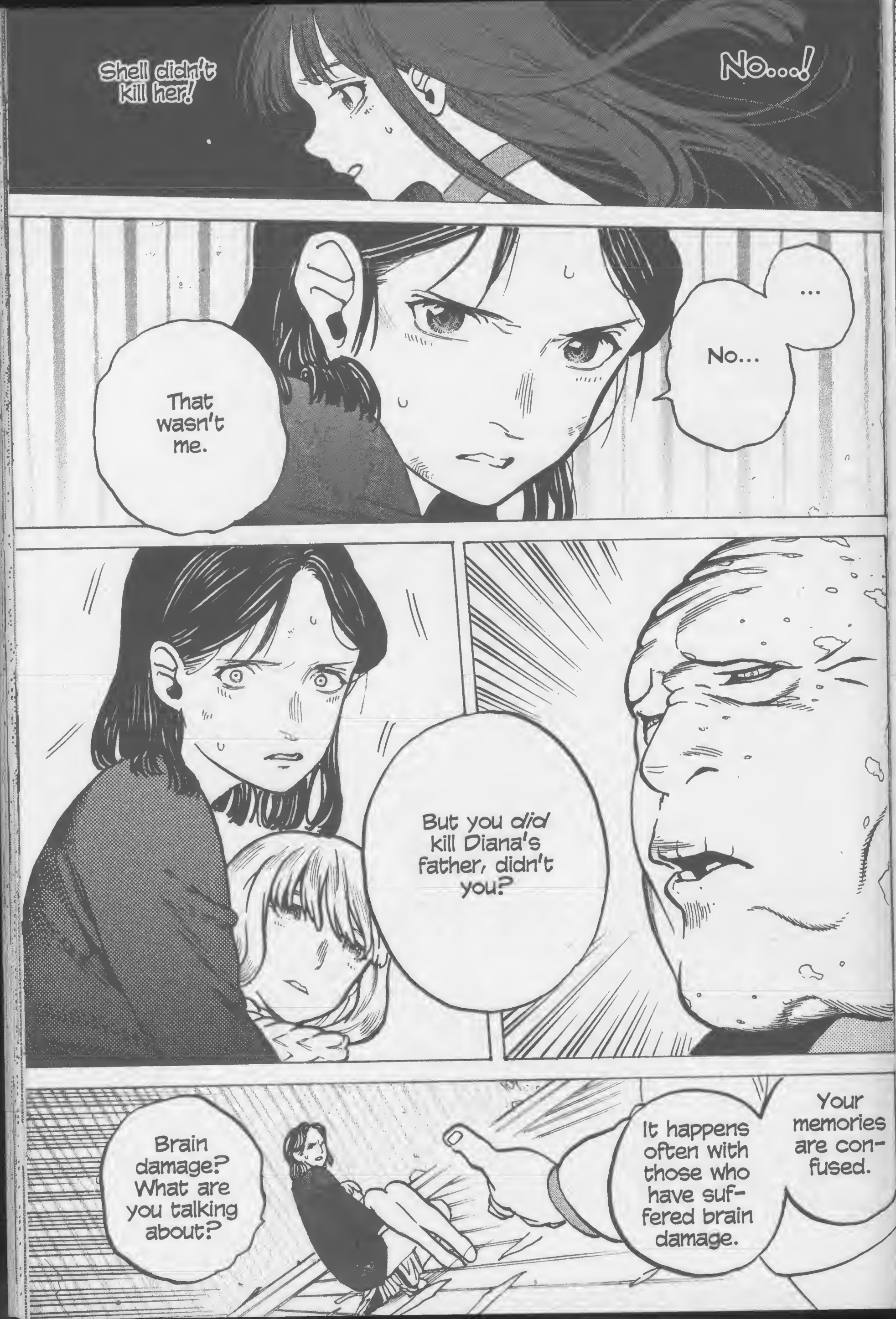

There's something I want you to hear, Shell.
My father rapes me.
GASP

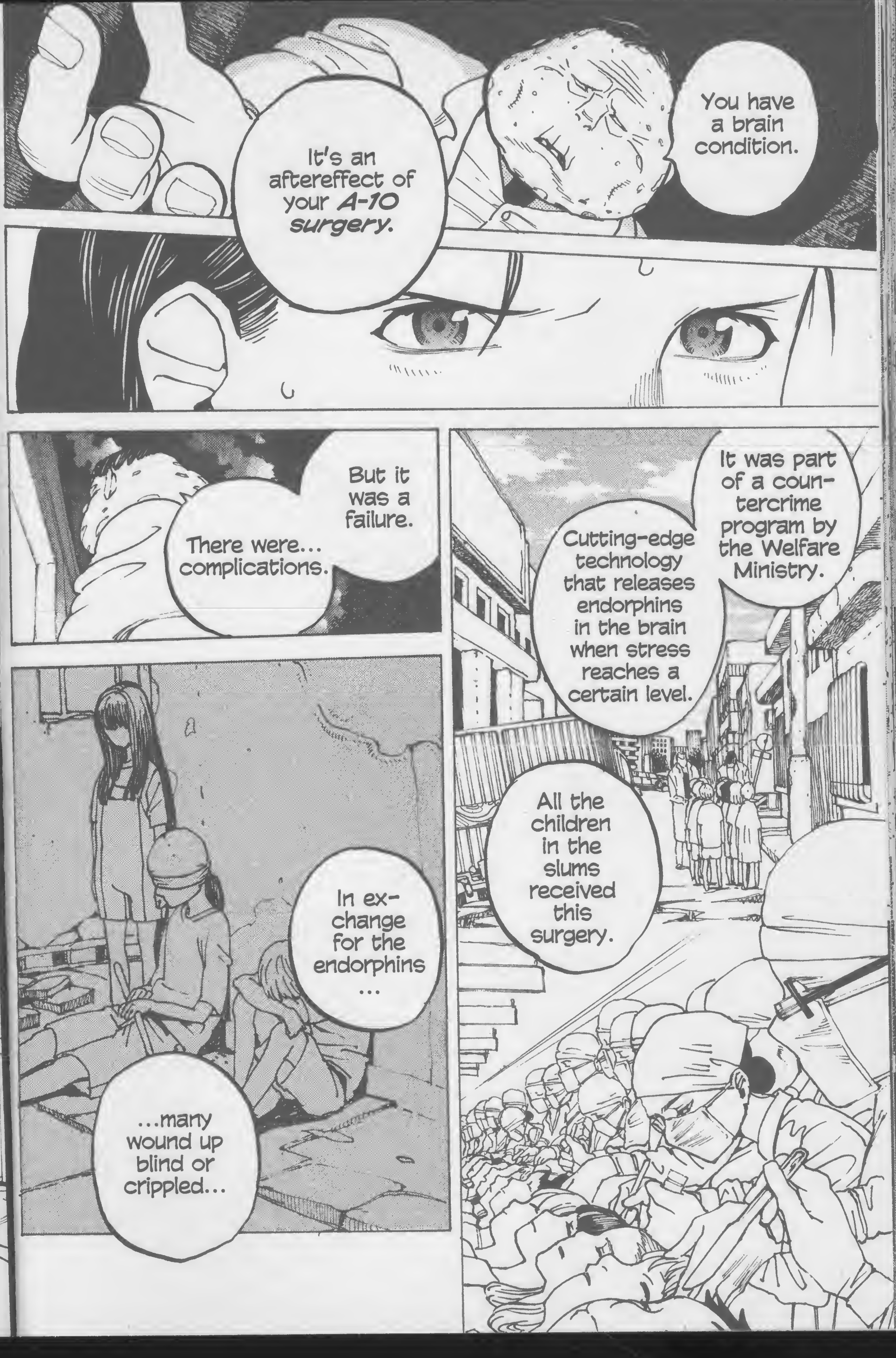

L-let's stop...
Let's pull her out, Œufcoque!
Balot needs to rest!
Pull her out of the memory!
NYURK
I can't interfere with her.
She's too keyed-in to the memories. She can't hear us anymore.
You mean ...
...you've had to sleep with your father?

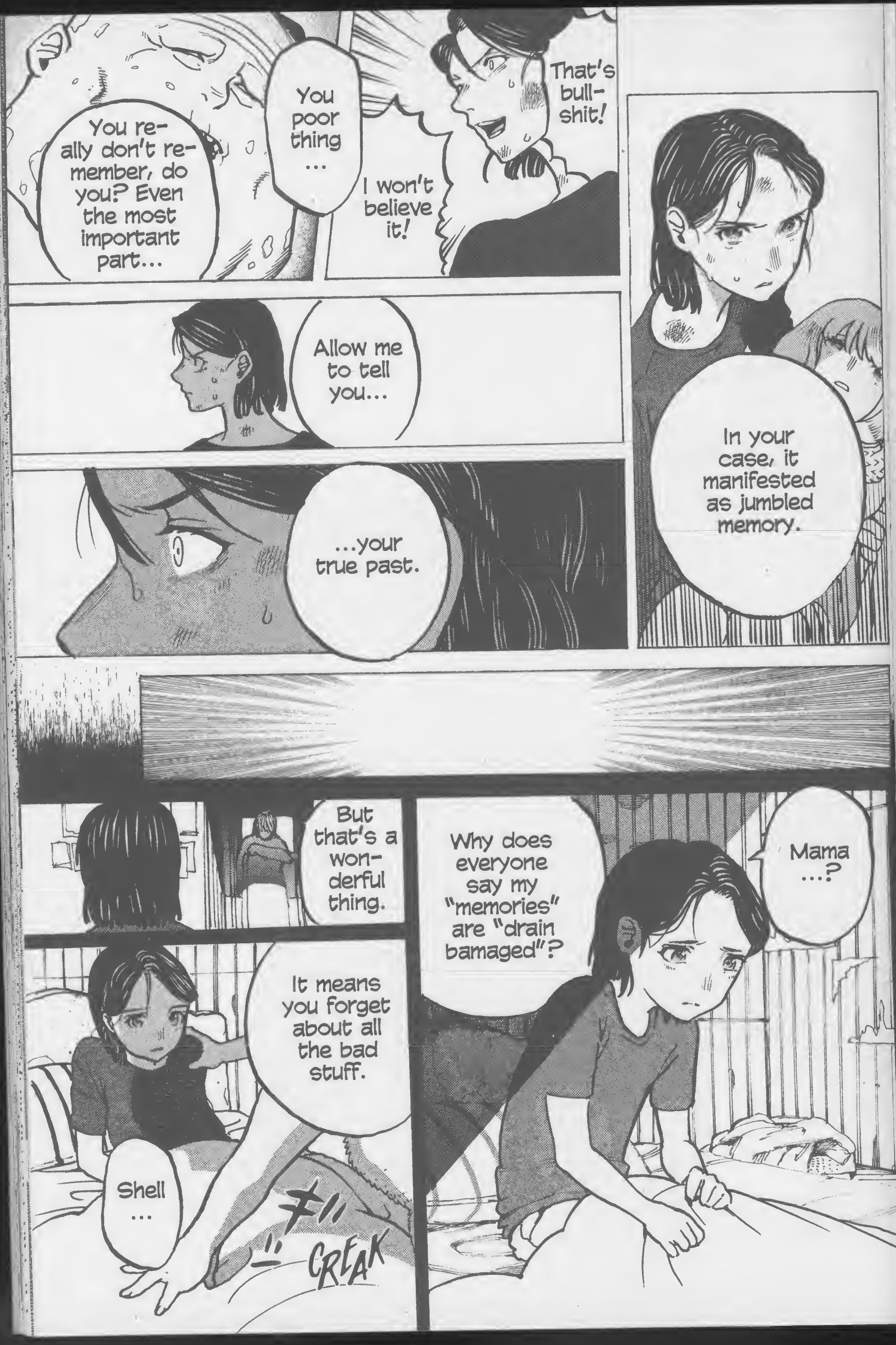


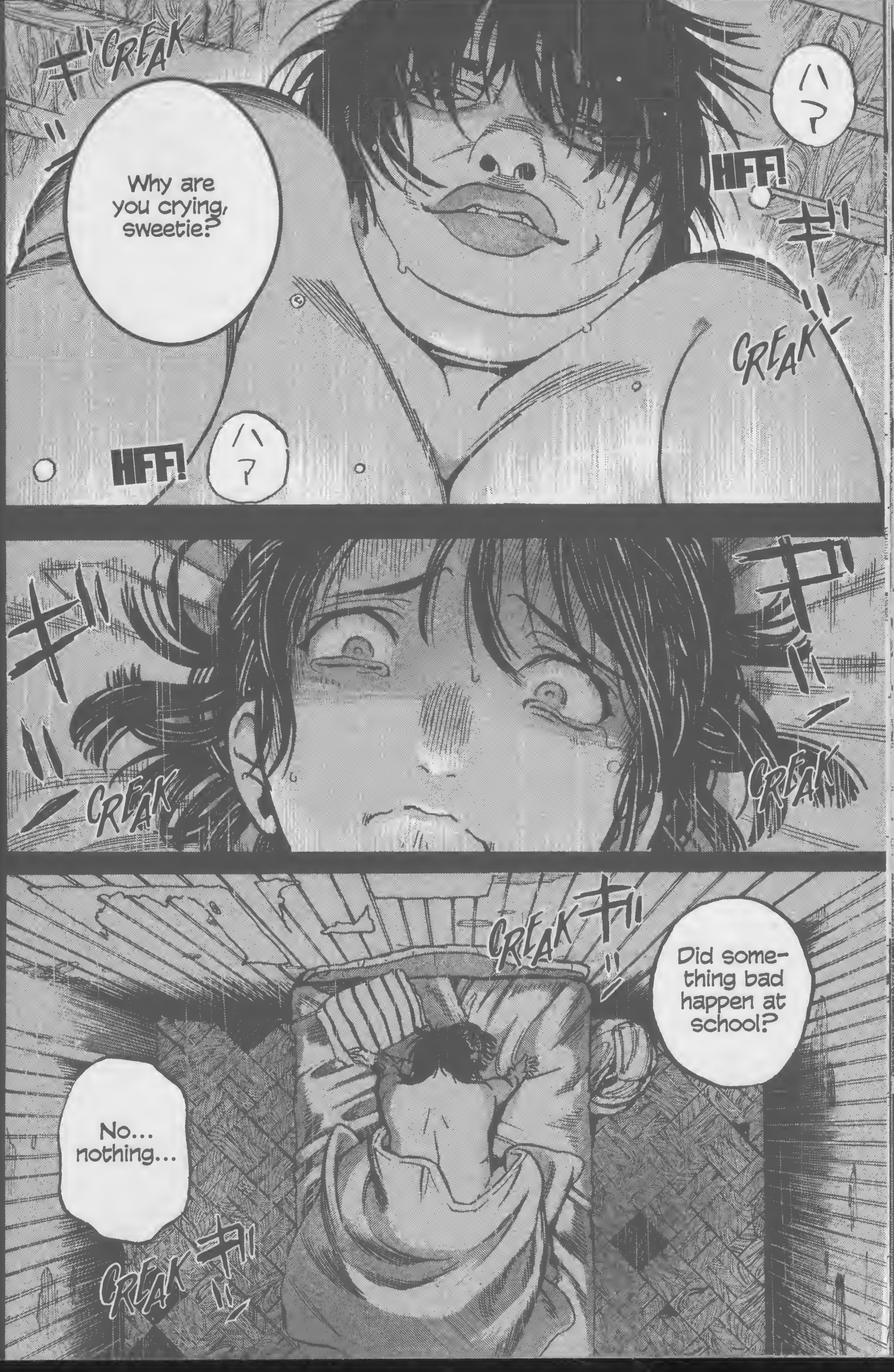

URK!
I wanted you to know the truth.
ハァハァ
HFF HFF
It's okay, Diana.
You can get rid of your filthy past.
There. All done...
FFH FFH
Diana!
Your father won't trouble you anymore!

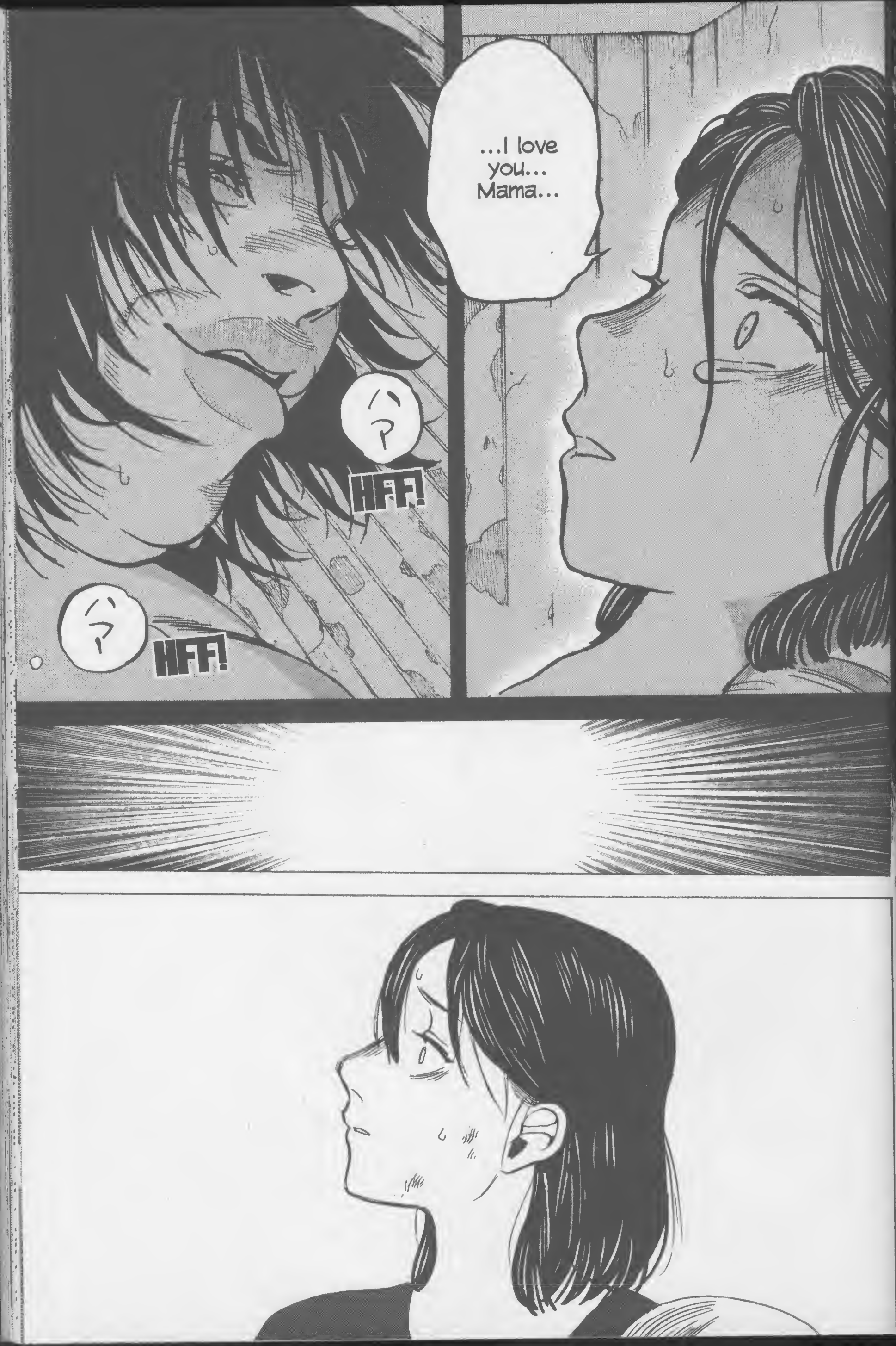

Who did this ...?!
Who killed her?!
It was you.
You killed her, of course.
Saying, "filthy, filthy," over and over.

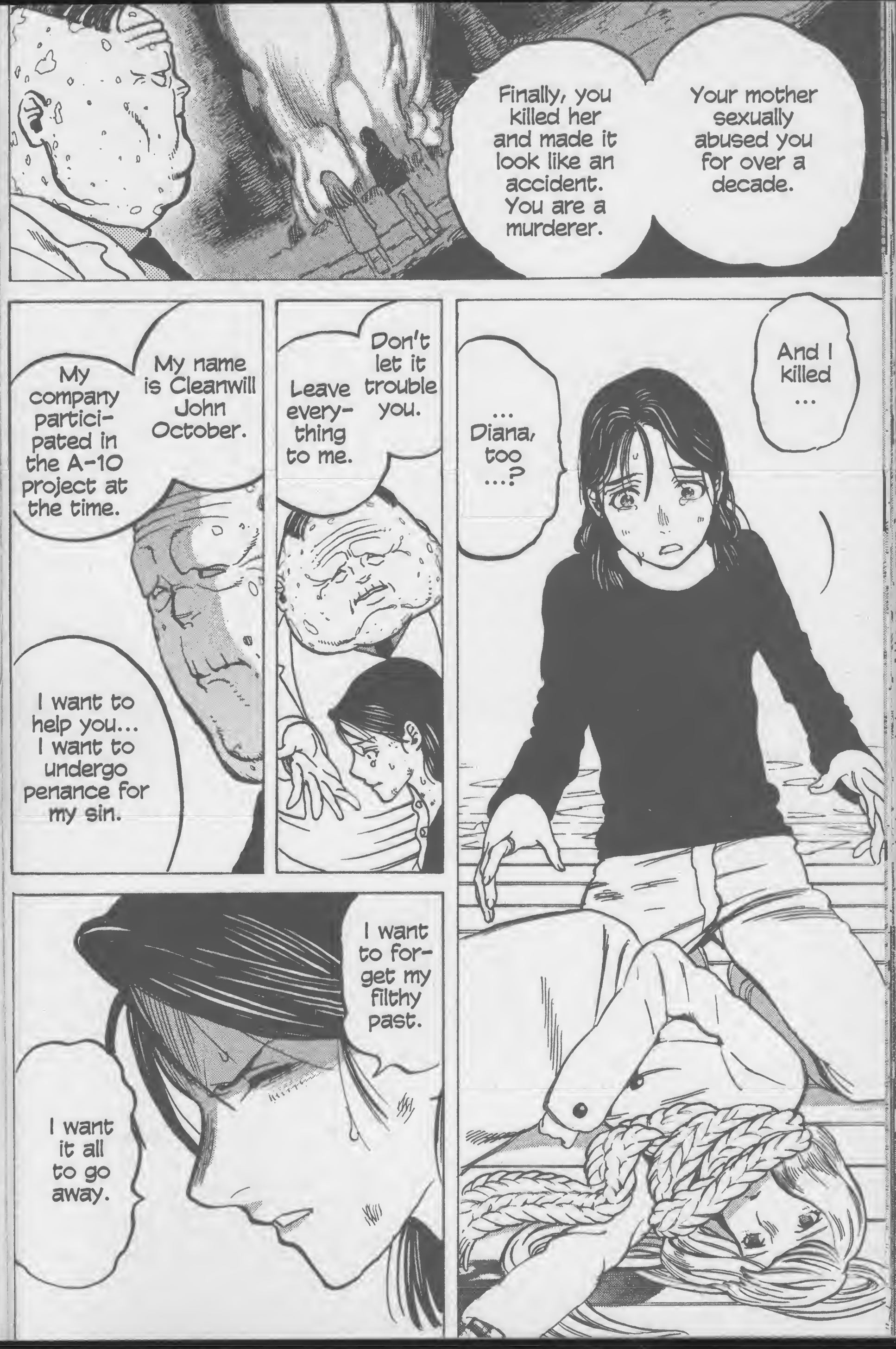

No...!
Shell didn't kill her!
...
No...
That wasn't me.
But you *did* kill Diana's father, didn't you?
Your memories are confused.
It happens often with those who have suffered brain damage.
Brain damage? What are you talking about?

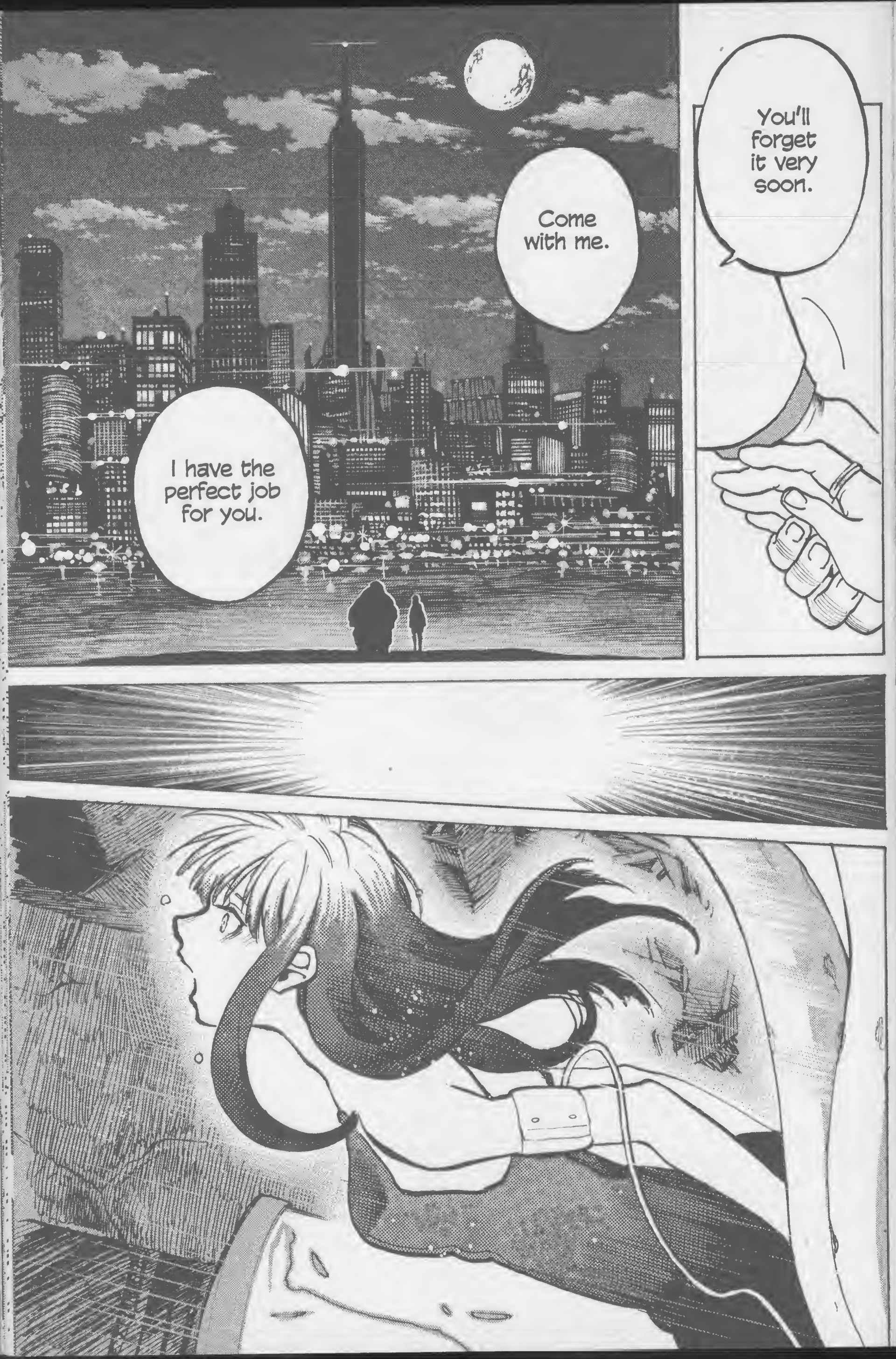

You have a brain condition.
It's an aftereffect of your *A-10 surgery.*
It was part of a countercrime program by the Welfare Ministry.
Cutting-edge technology that releases endorphins in the brain when stress reaches a certain level.
All the children in the slums received this surgery.
But it was a failure.
There were... complications.
In exchange for the endorphins...
...many wound up blind or crippled...

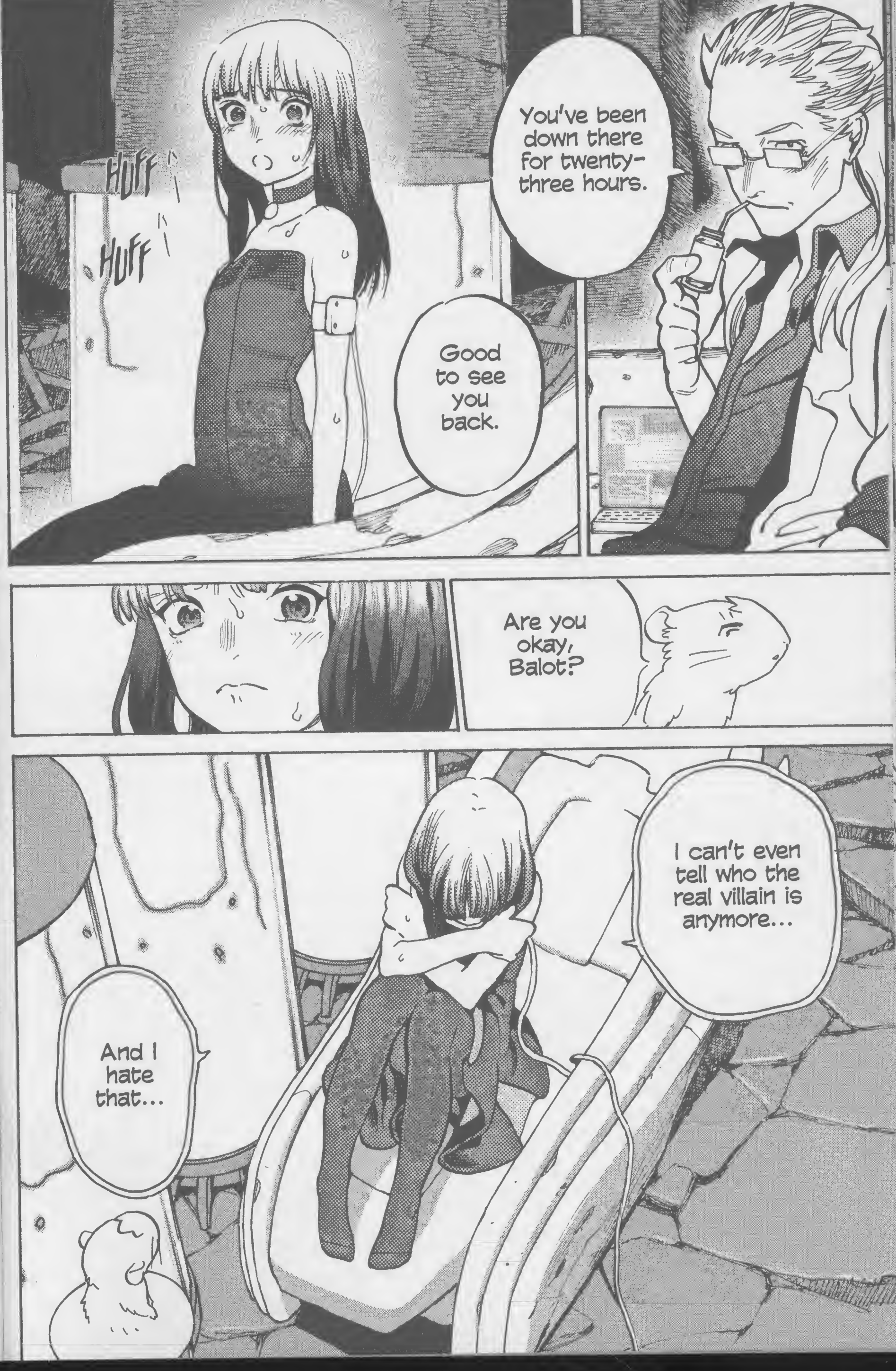

That's bullshit!
I won't believe it!
You poor thing...
You really don't remember, do you? Even the most important part...
In your case, it manifested as jumbled memory.
Allow me to tell you...
...your true past.
Mama...?
Why does everyone say my "memories" are "drain bamaged"?
But that's a wonderful thing.
It means you forget about all the bad stuff.
Shell...
CREAK

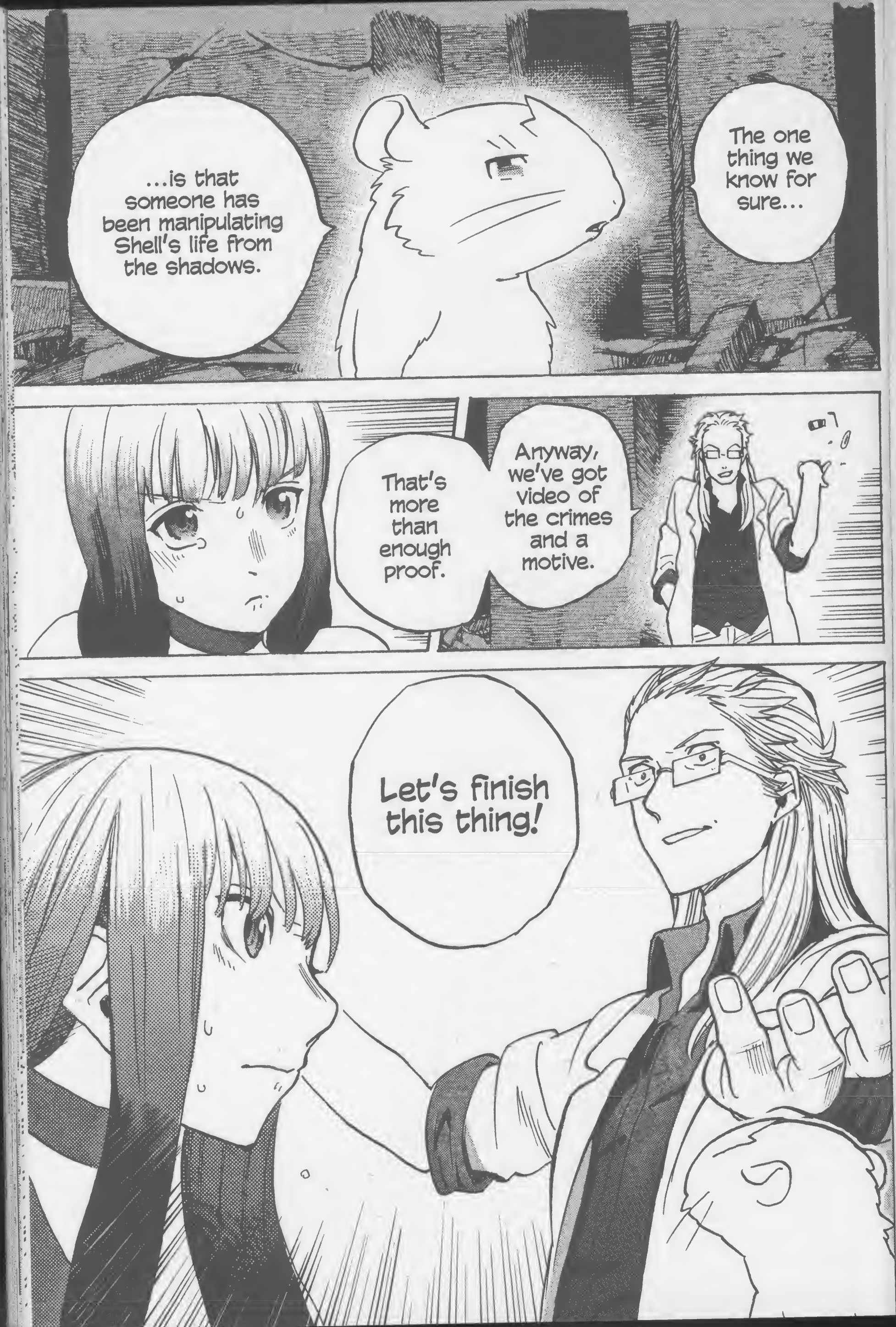

ハァ
HFF!
ギ
CREAK
Why are you crying, sweetie?
ハァ
HFF!
ギ
CREAK
ギ
CREAK
ギ
CREAK
CREAK ギ
Did some-thing bad happen at school?
No... nothing...
CREAK ギ


...I love you... Mama...
ハァ
HFF!
ハァ
HFF!

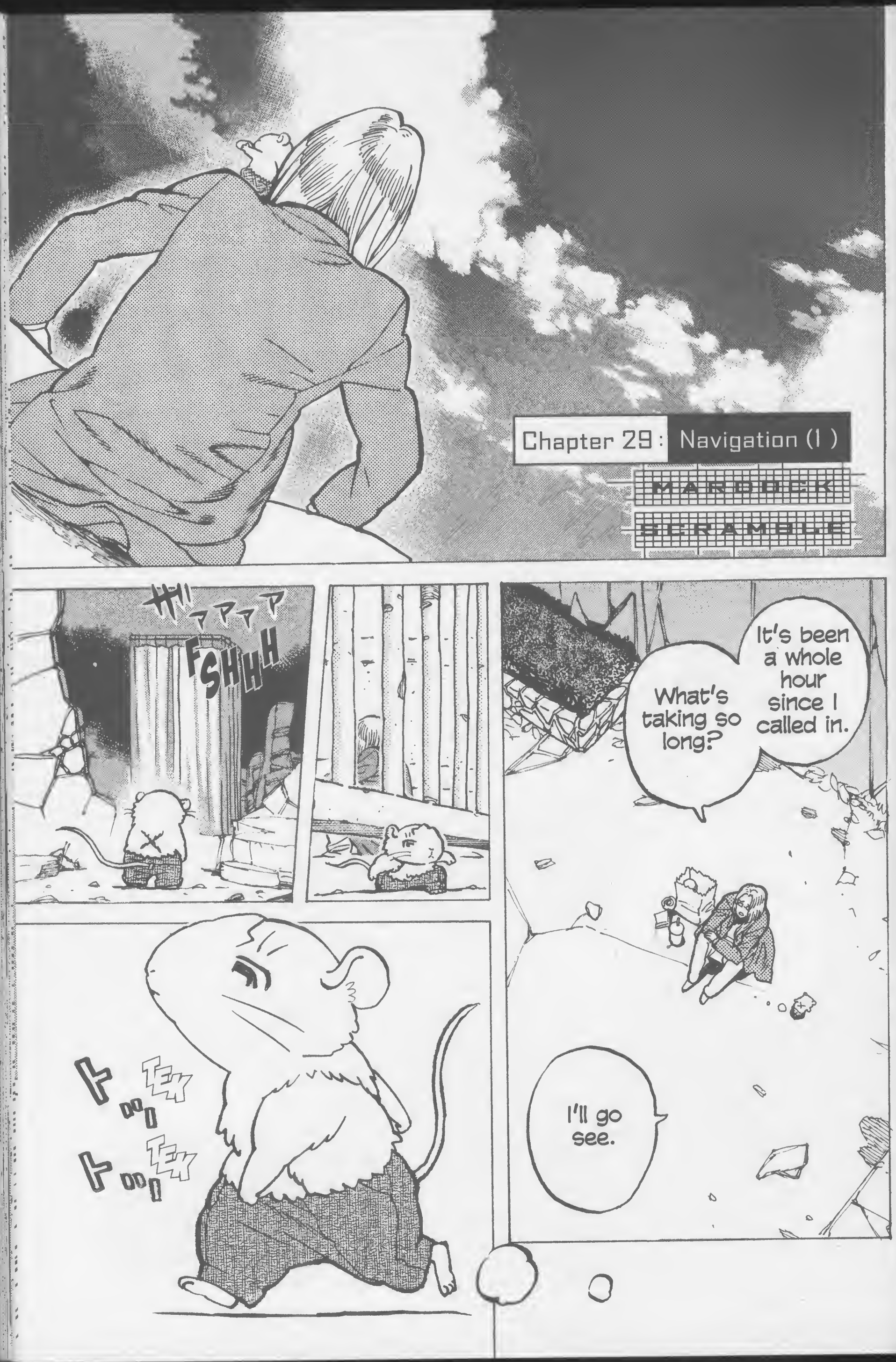

Your mother sexually abused you for over a decade.
Finally, you killed her and made it look like an accident. You are a murderer.
And I killed ...
... Diana, too ...?
Don't let it trouble you.
Leave everything to me.
My name is Cleanwill John October.
My company participated in the A-10 project at the time.
I want to help you... I want to undergo penance for my sin.
I want to forget my filthy past.
I want it all to go away.


You'll forget it very soon.
Come with me.
I have the perfect job for you.

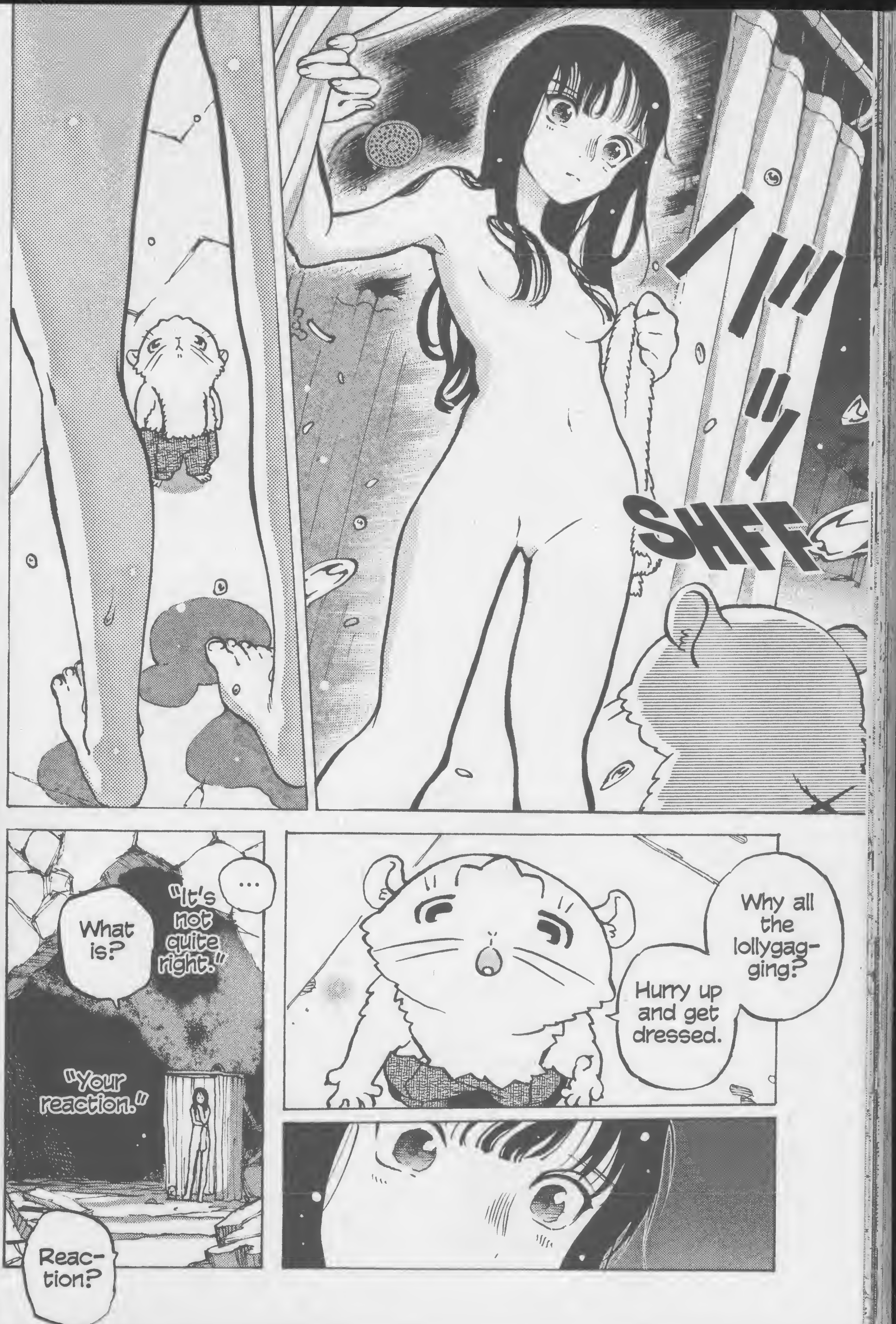

You've been down there for twenty-three hours.
HUFF
HUFF
Good to see you back.
Are you okay, Balot?
I can't even tell who the real villain is anymore...
And I hate that...

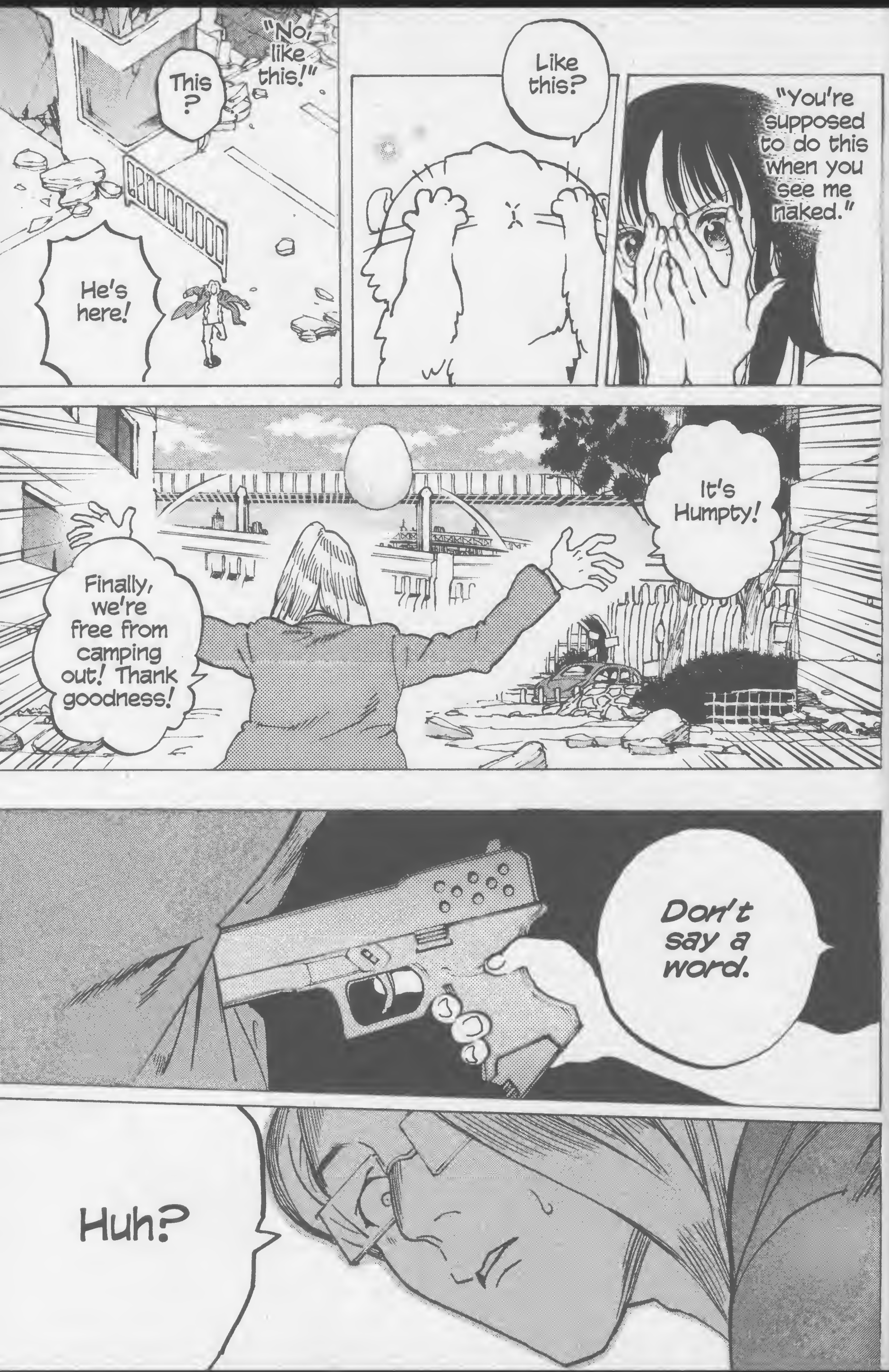

The one thing we know for sure...
...is that someone has been manipulating Shell's life from the shadows.
Anyway, we've got video of the crimes and a motive.
That's more than enough proof.
Let's finish this thing!

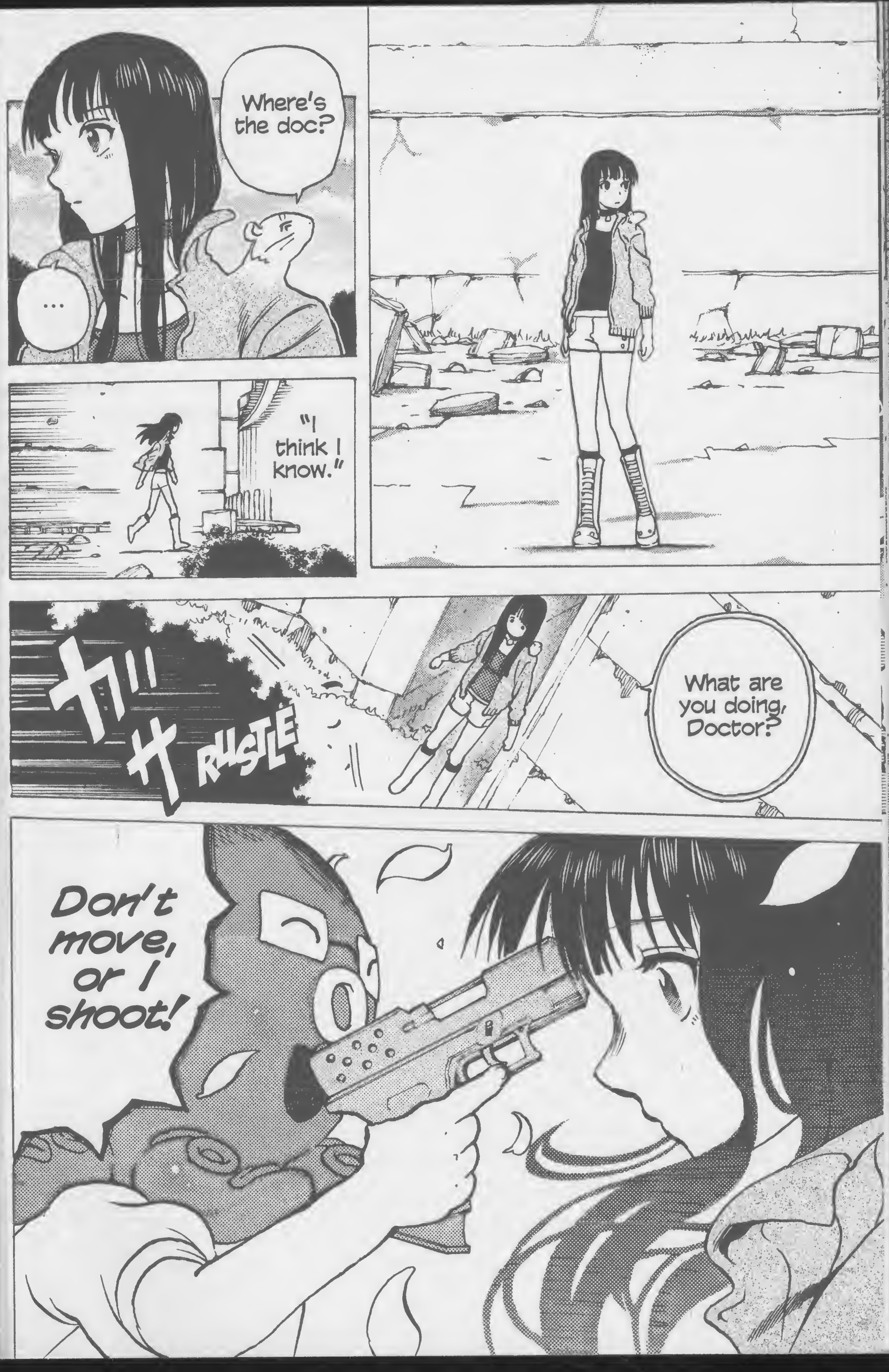
Chapter 29: Navigation (1)

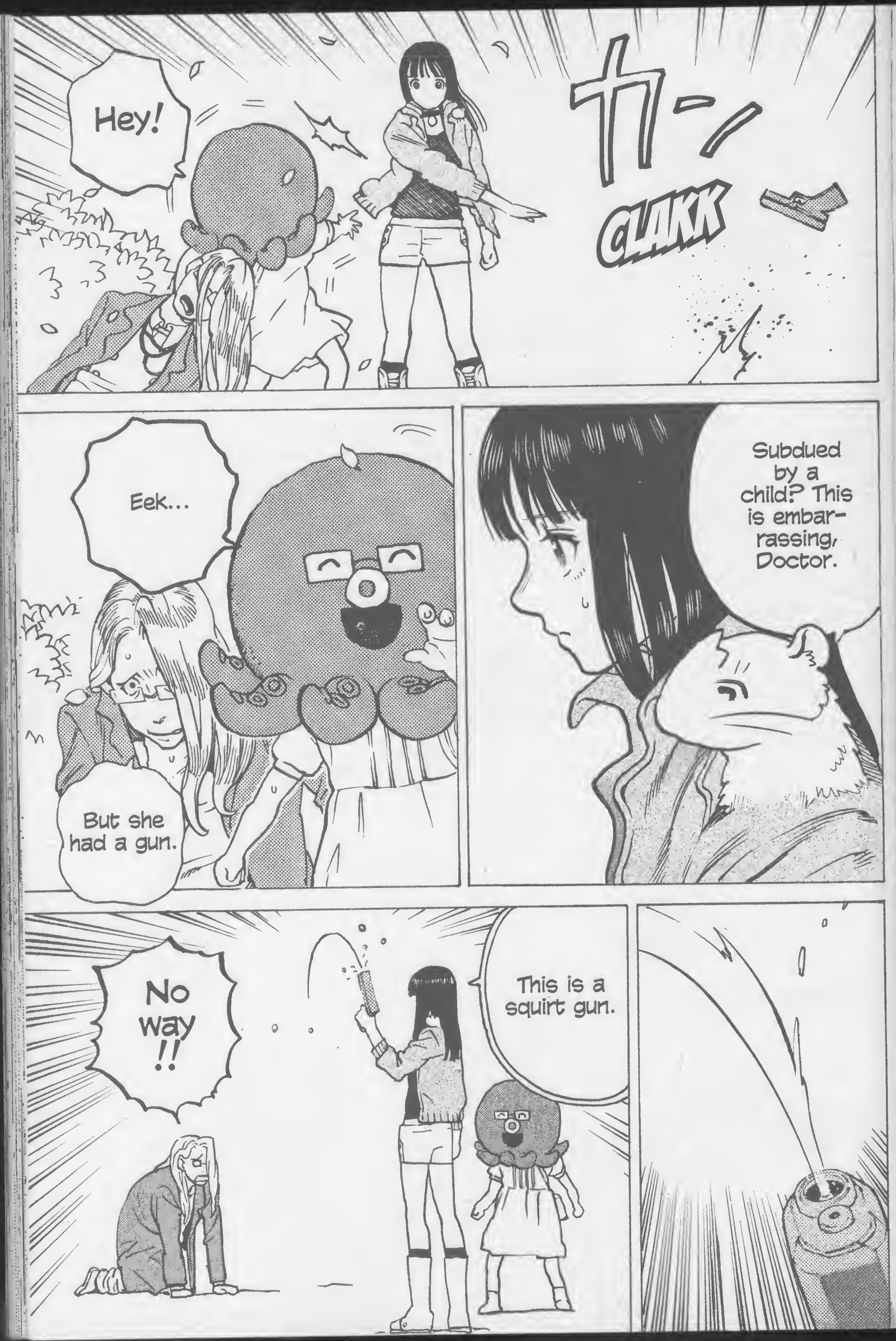

MARDOCK
SCRAMBLE
It's been a whole hour since I called in.
What's taking so long?
ザーーーア
FSHHH
I'll go see.
ト TEK
ト TEK

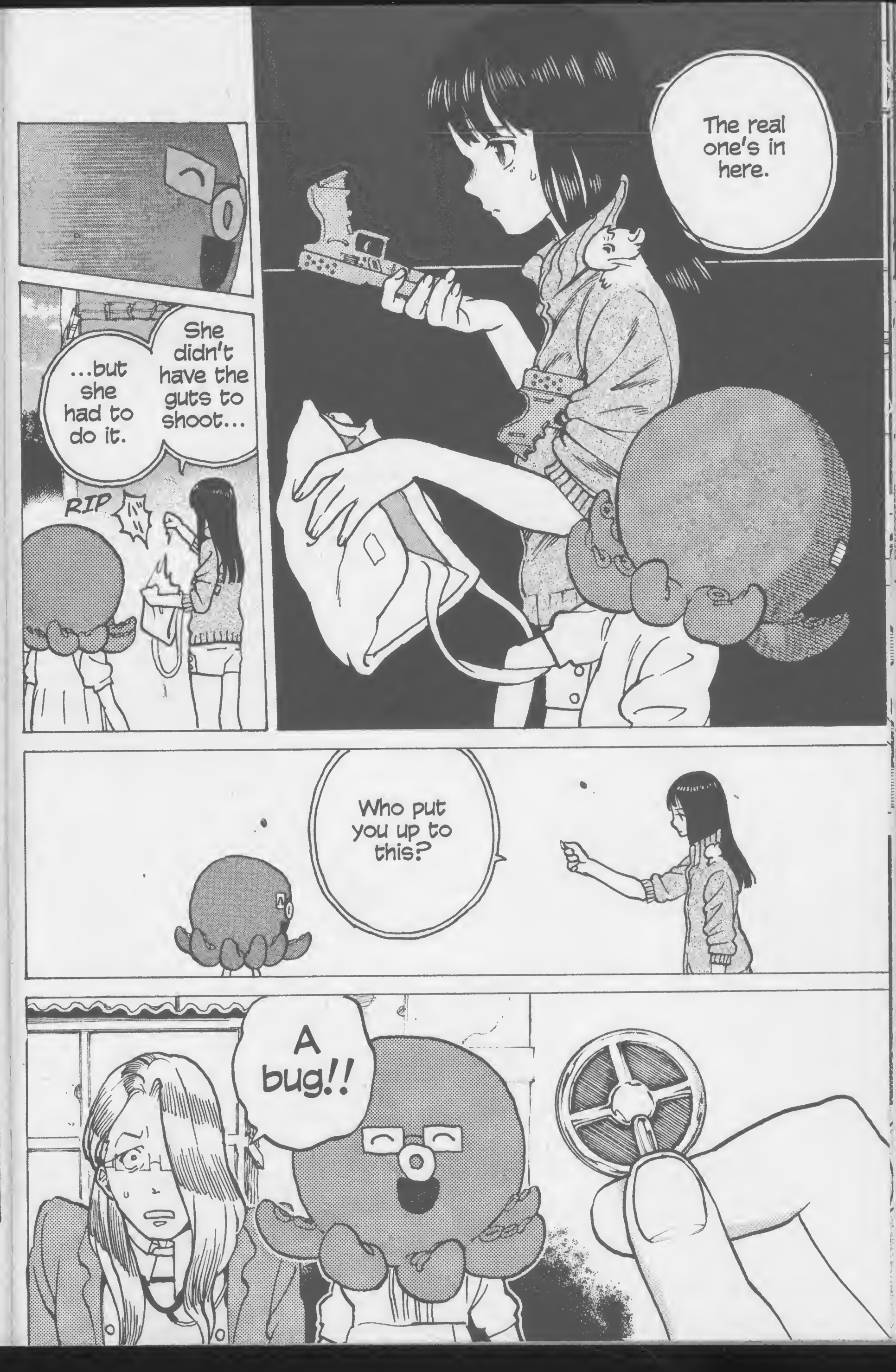
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

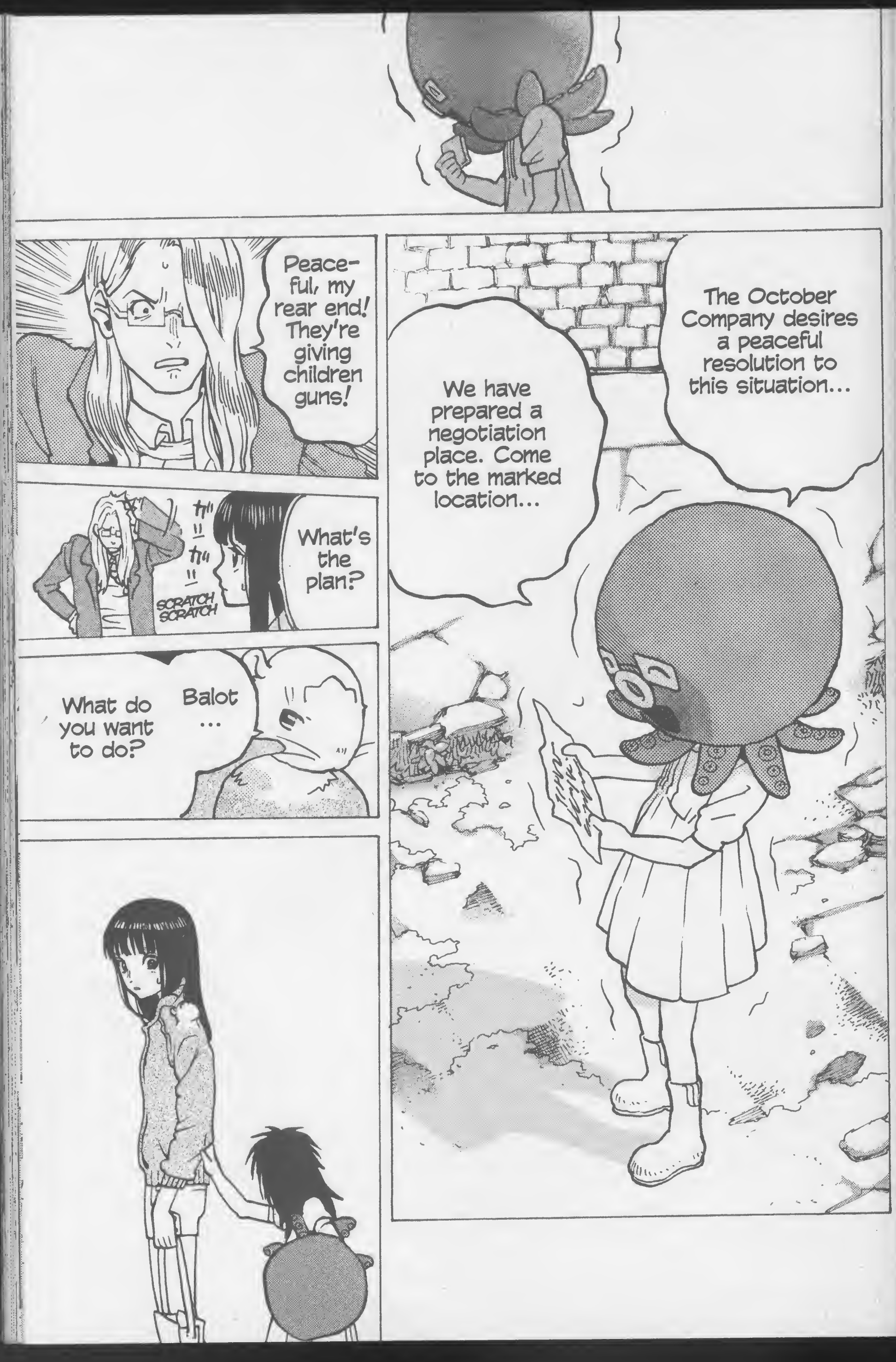

SHFF
Why all the lollygagging?
Hurry up and get dressed.
...
"It's not quite right."
What is?
"Your reaction."
Reaction?

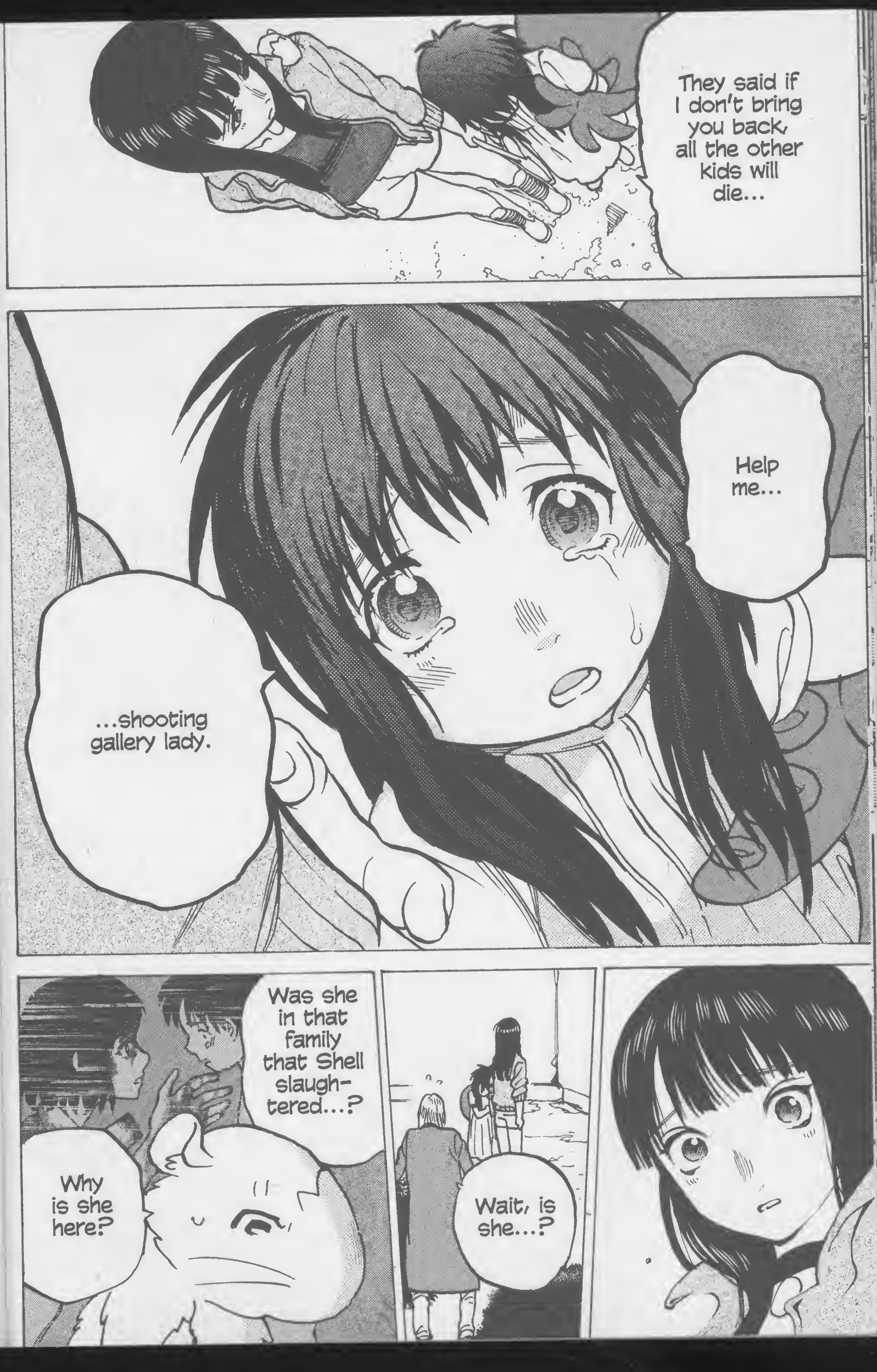

"You're supposed to do this when you see me naked."
Like this?
"No, like this!"
This?
He's here!
It's Humpty!
Finally, we're free from camping out! Thank goodness!
Don't say a word.
Huh?

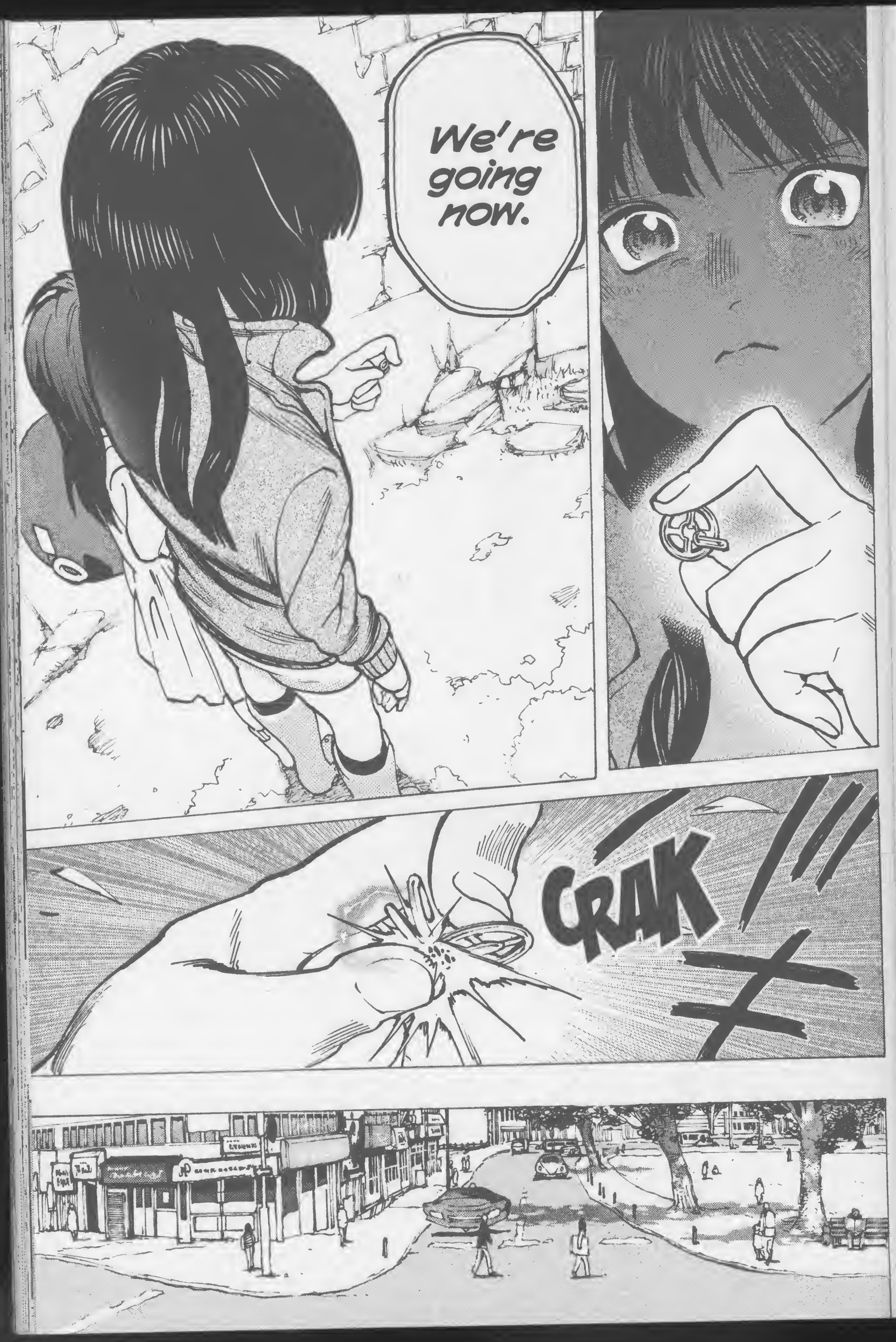

Where's the doc?
…
"I think I know."
ガサ
RUSTLE
What are you doing, Doctor?
Don't move, or I shoot!

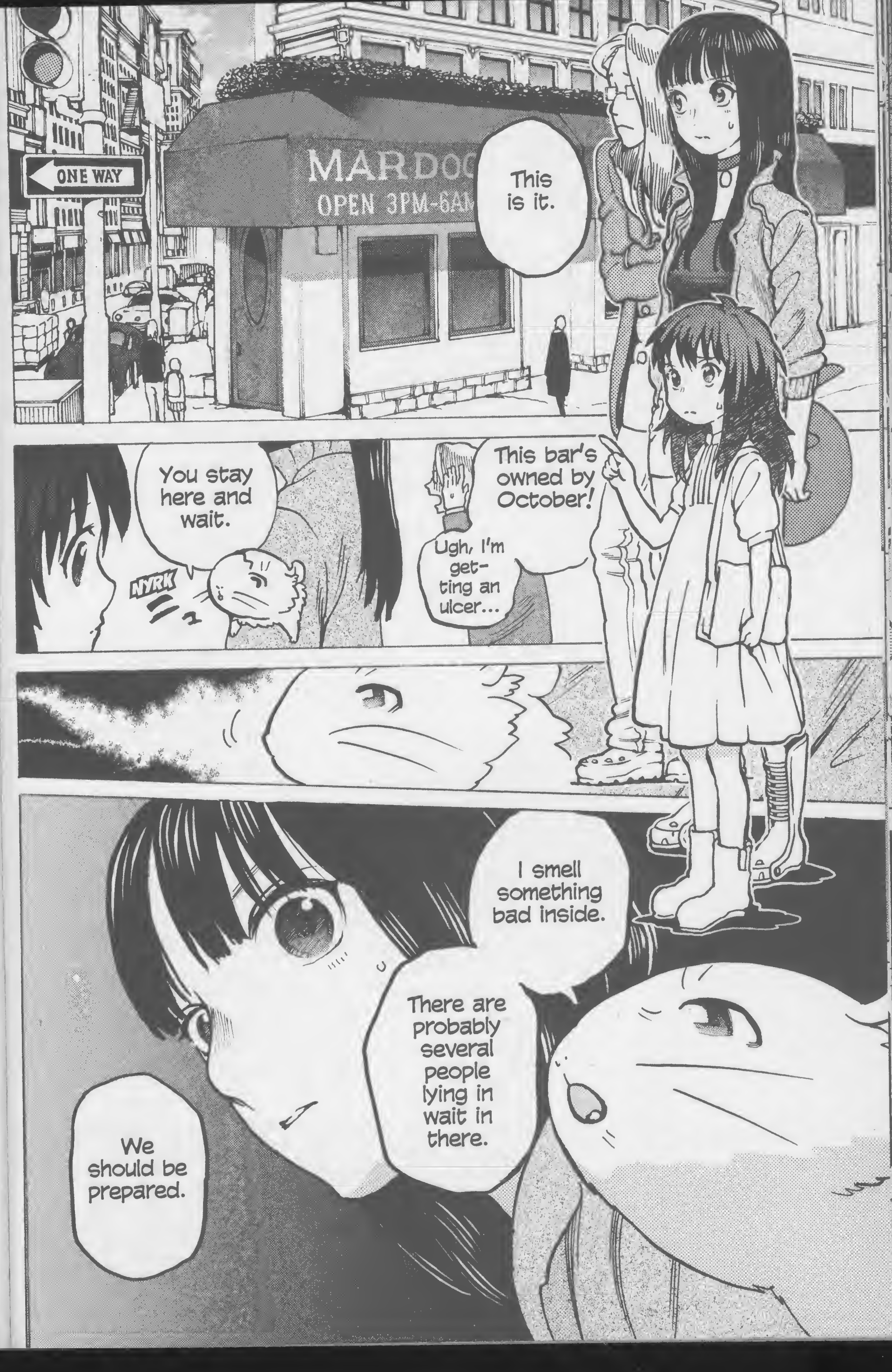

Hey!
カーン
CLAKK
Subdued by a child? This is embarrassing, Doctor.
Eek…
But she had a gun.
This is a squirt gun.
No way!!

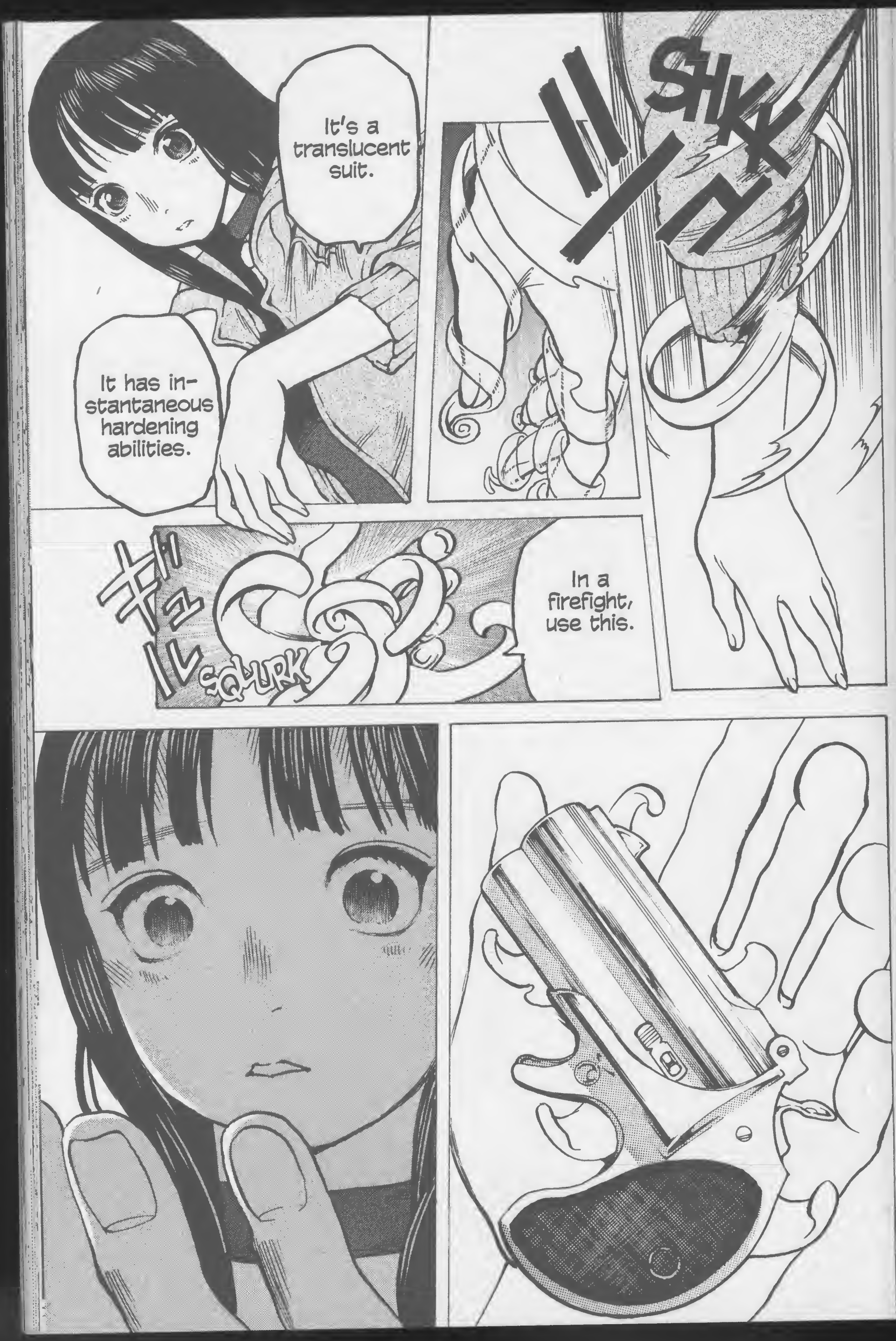

The real one's in here.
She didn't have the guts to shoot...
...but she had to do it.
RIP
Who put you up to this?
A bug!!

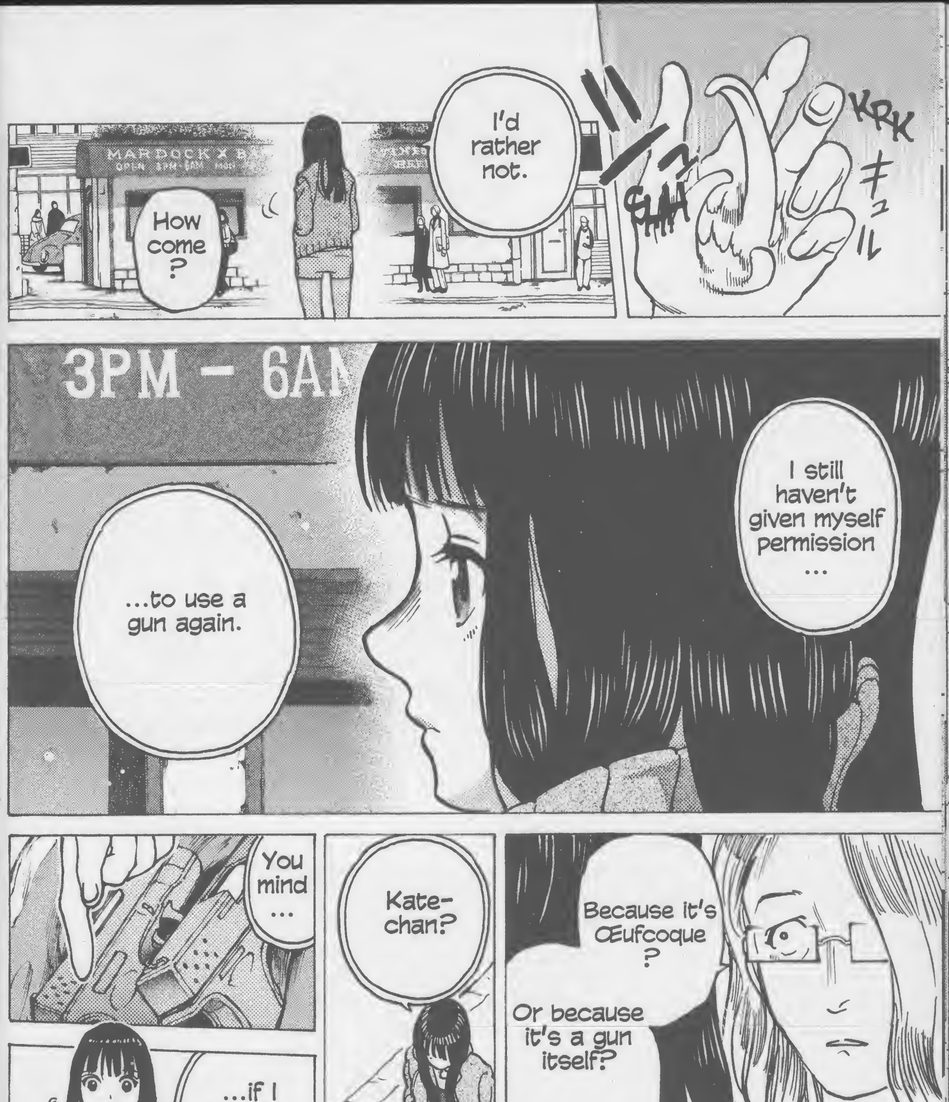

The October Company desires a peaceful resolution to this situation...
We have prepared a negotiation place. Come to the marked location...
Peaceful, my rear end! They're giving children guns!
What's the plan?
ガ!! ガ!!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
Balot...
What do you want to do?

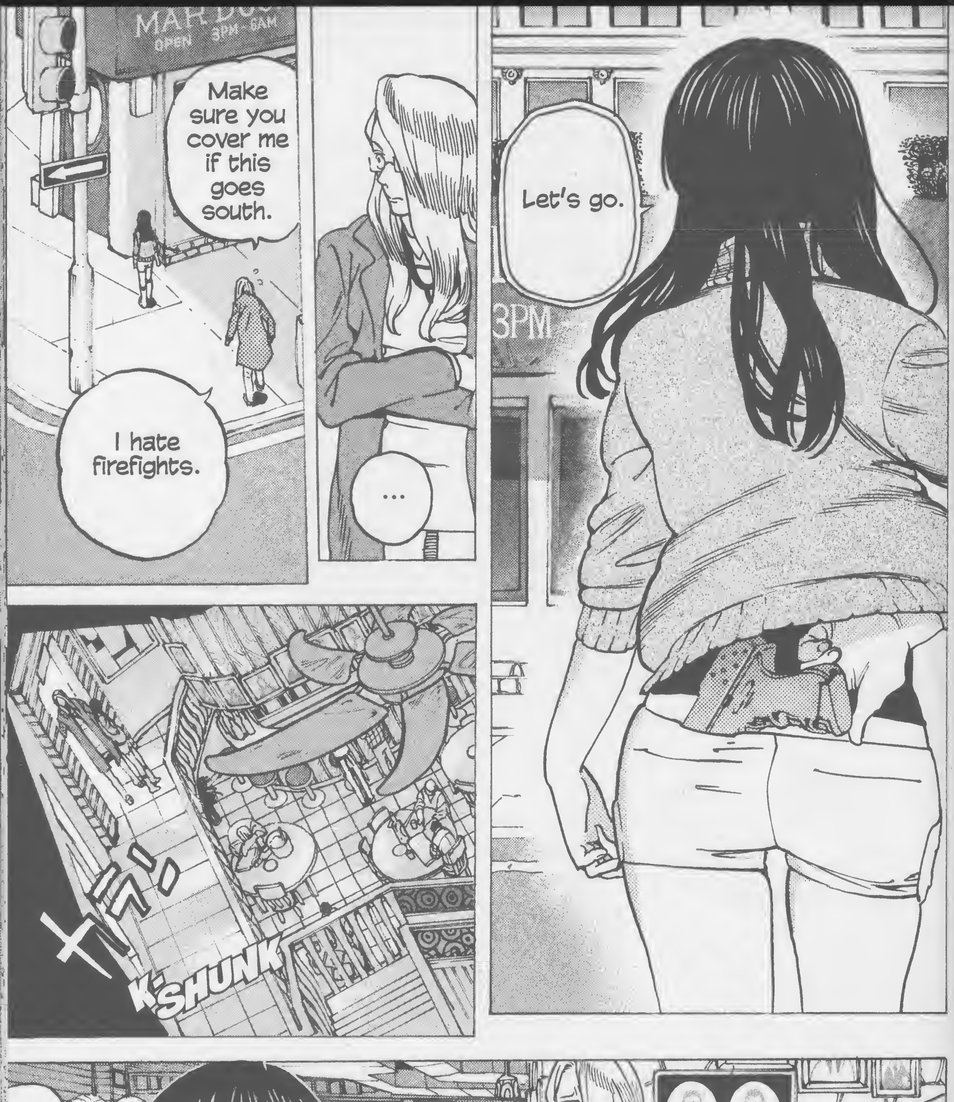

They said if I don't bring you back, all the other kids will die...
Help me...
...shooting gallery lady.
Wait, is she...?
Was she in that family that Shell slaughtered...?
Why is she here?

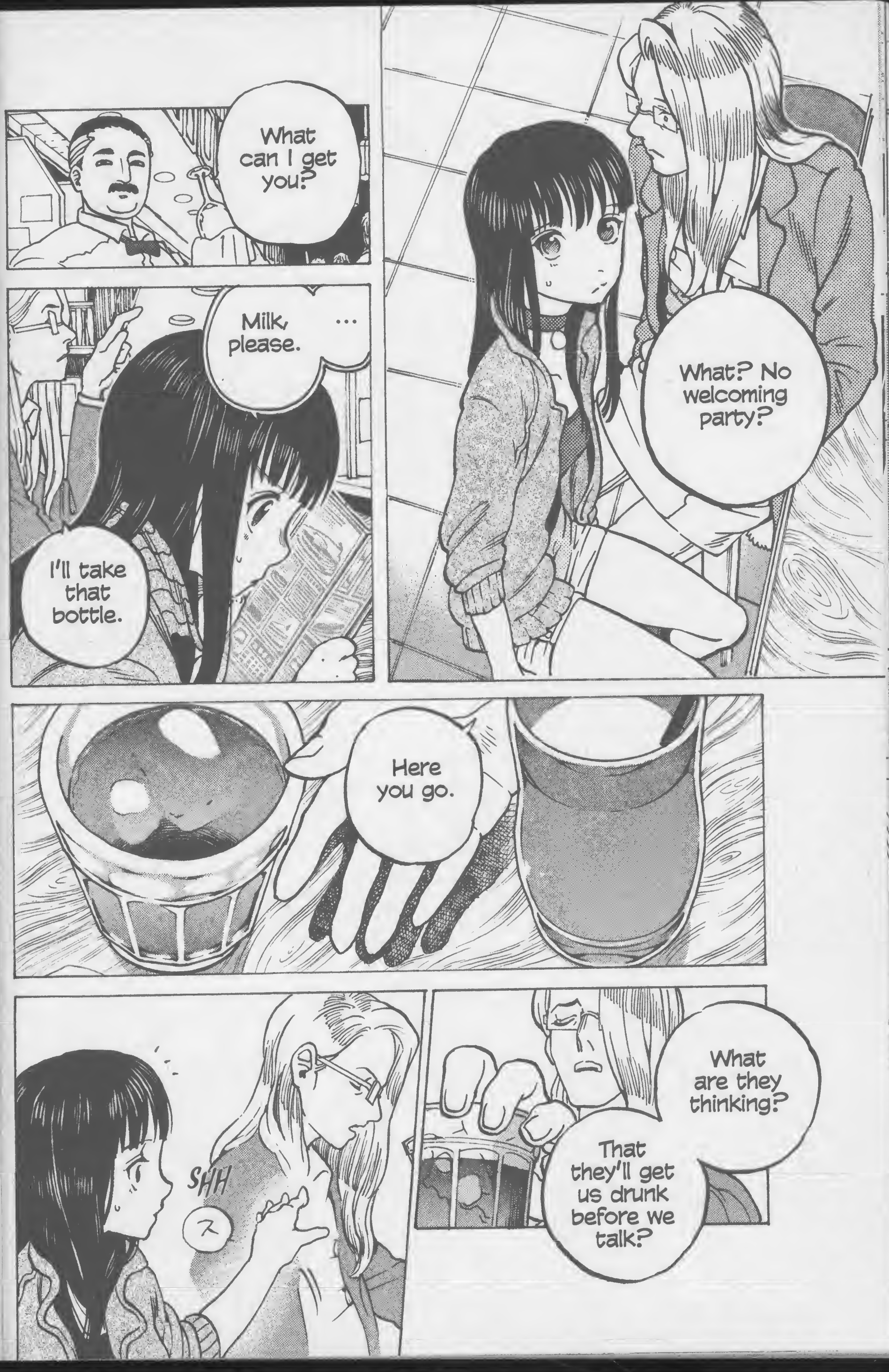

We're going now.
CRAK

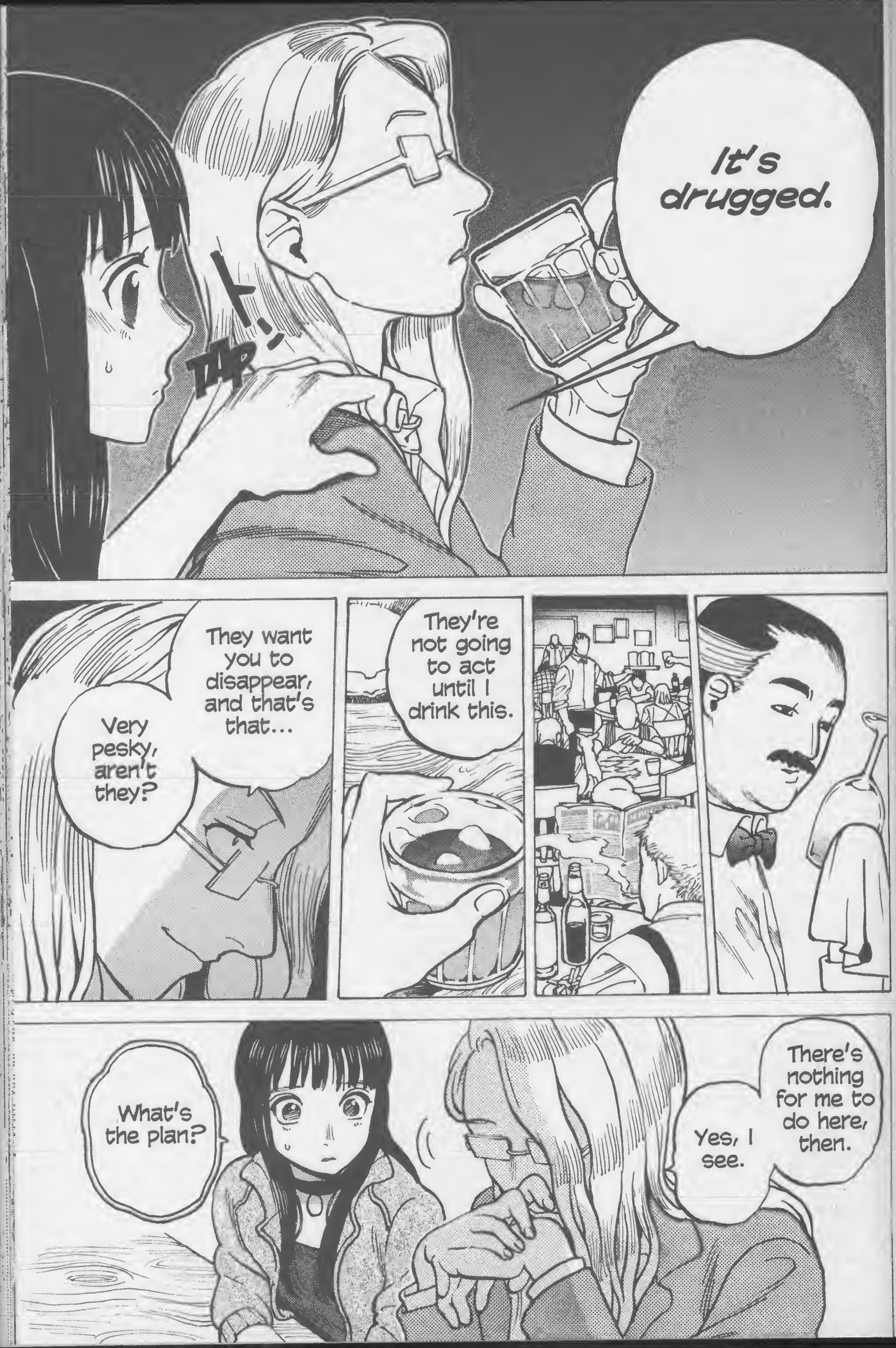

ONE WAY
MARDOC
OPEN 3PM-6AM
This is it.
This bar's owned by October!
Ugh, I'm getting an ulcer...
You stay here and wait.
NYRK
I smell something bad inside.
There are probably several people lying in wait in there.
We should be prepared.

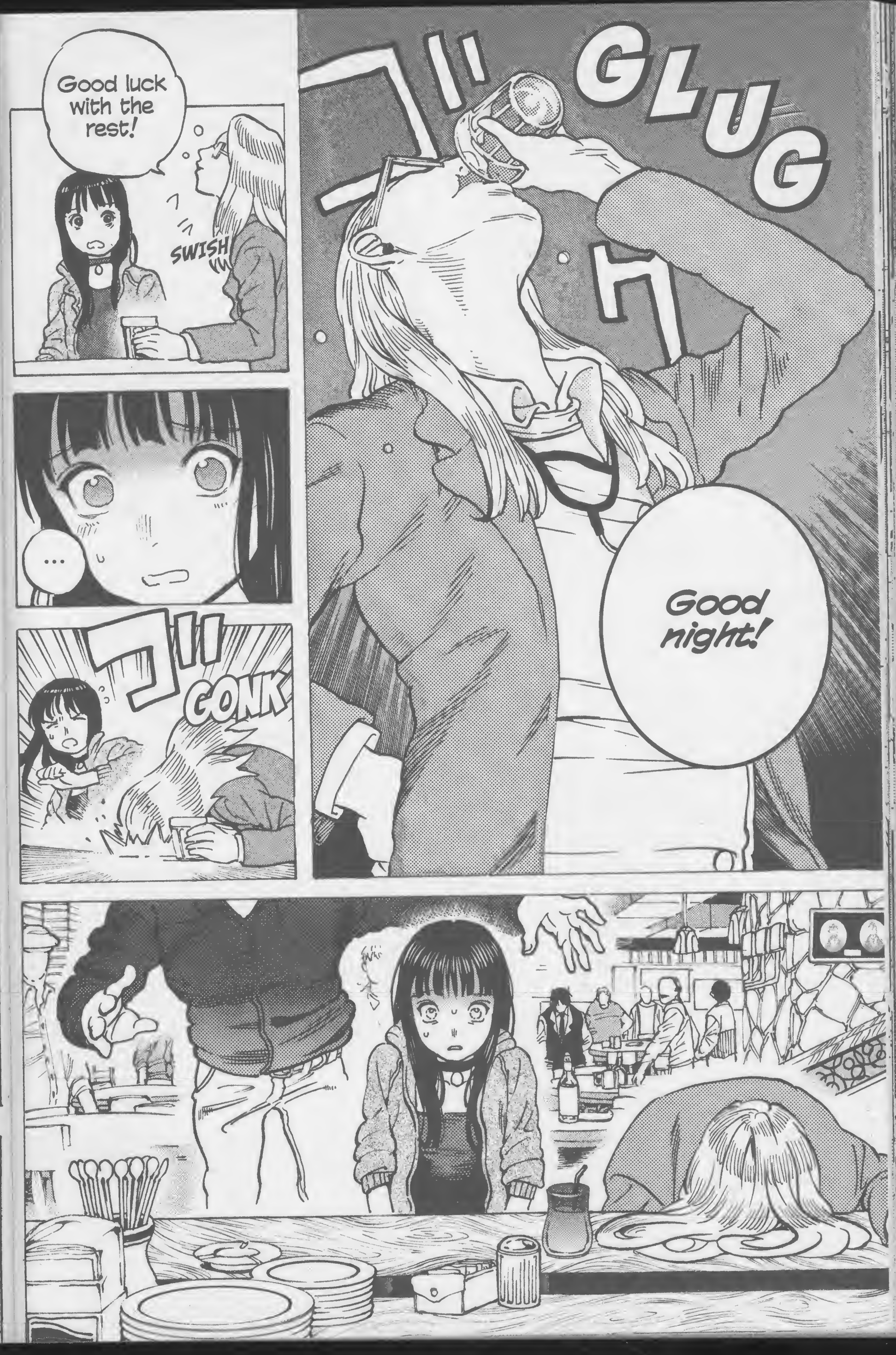

SHKK
It's a translucent suit.
It has instantaneous hardening abilities.
In a firefight, use this.
ギュル
SQURK

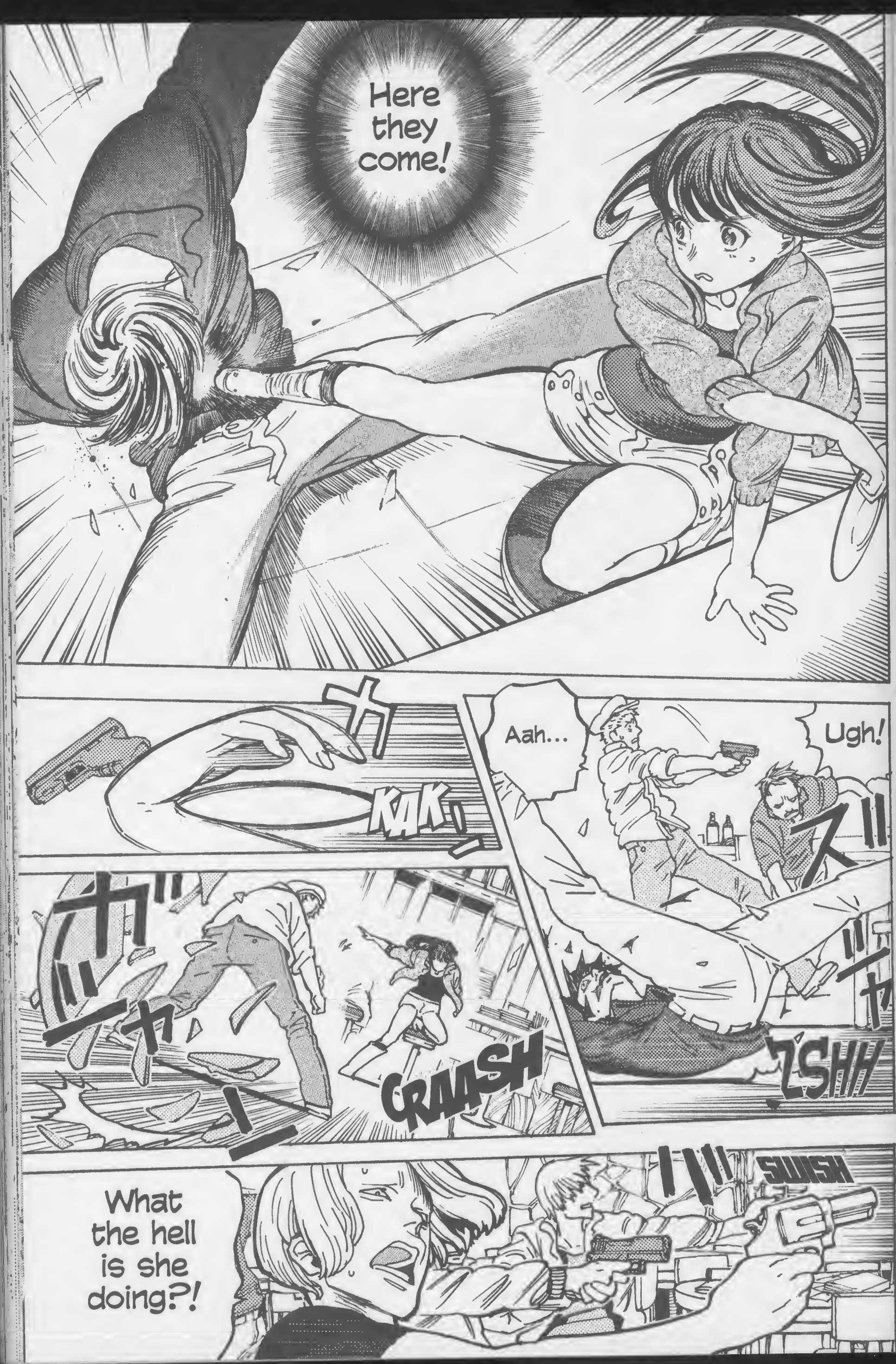

KRK
キュル
I'd rather not.
How come?
MARDOCK X BAR
OPEN 3PM-6AM
3PM - 6AM
I still haven't given myself permission…
…to use a gun again.
Because it's Œufcoque?
Or because it's a gun itself?
Kate-chan?
You mind…
…if I borrow this from you?
Go ahead.

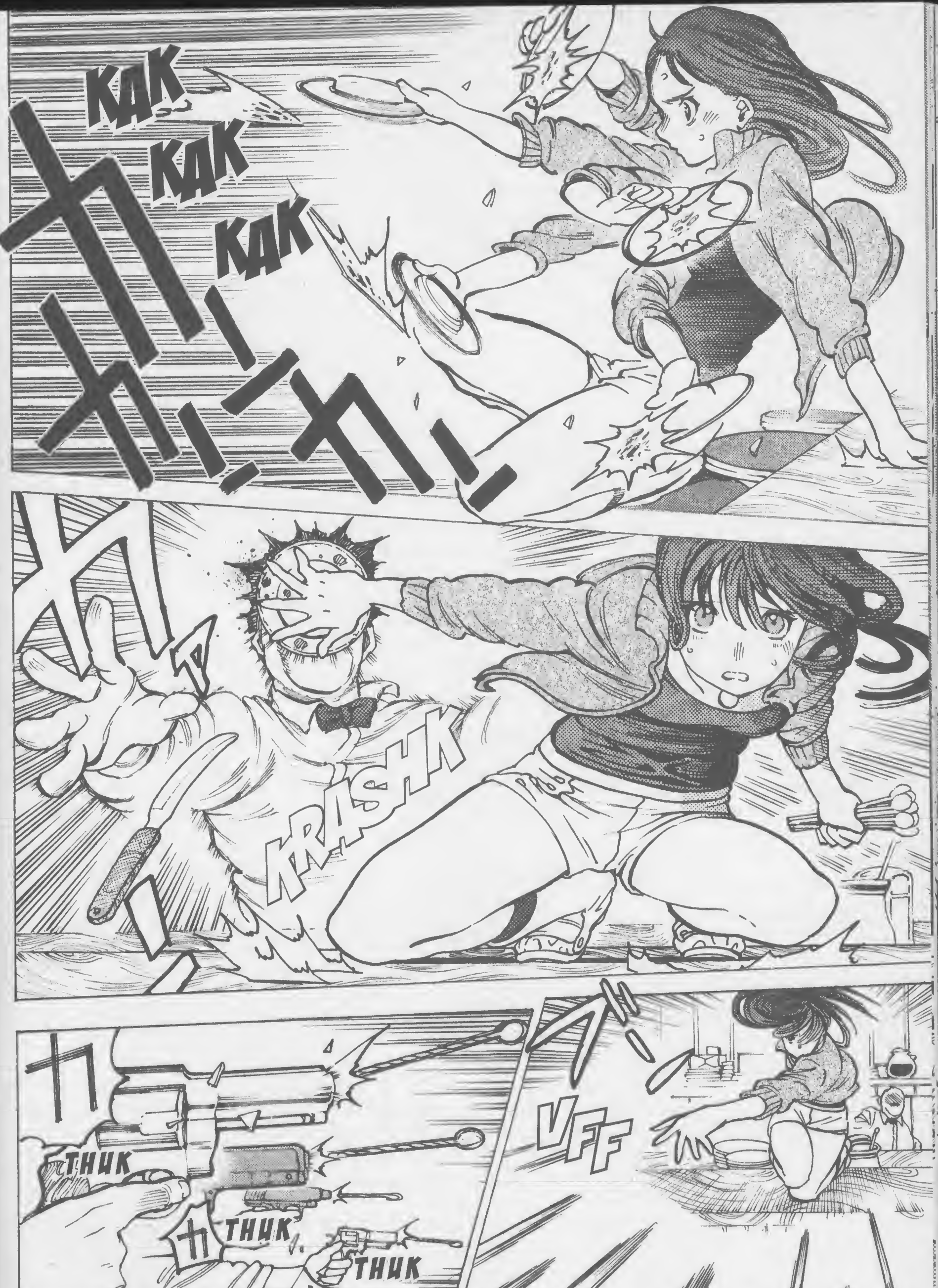

Let's go.
3PM
…
MARDOCK
OPEN 3PM-6AM
Make sure you cover me if this goes south.
I hate firefights.
K-SHUNK

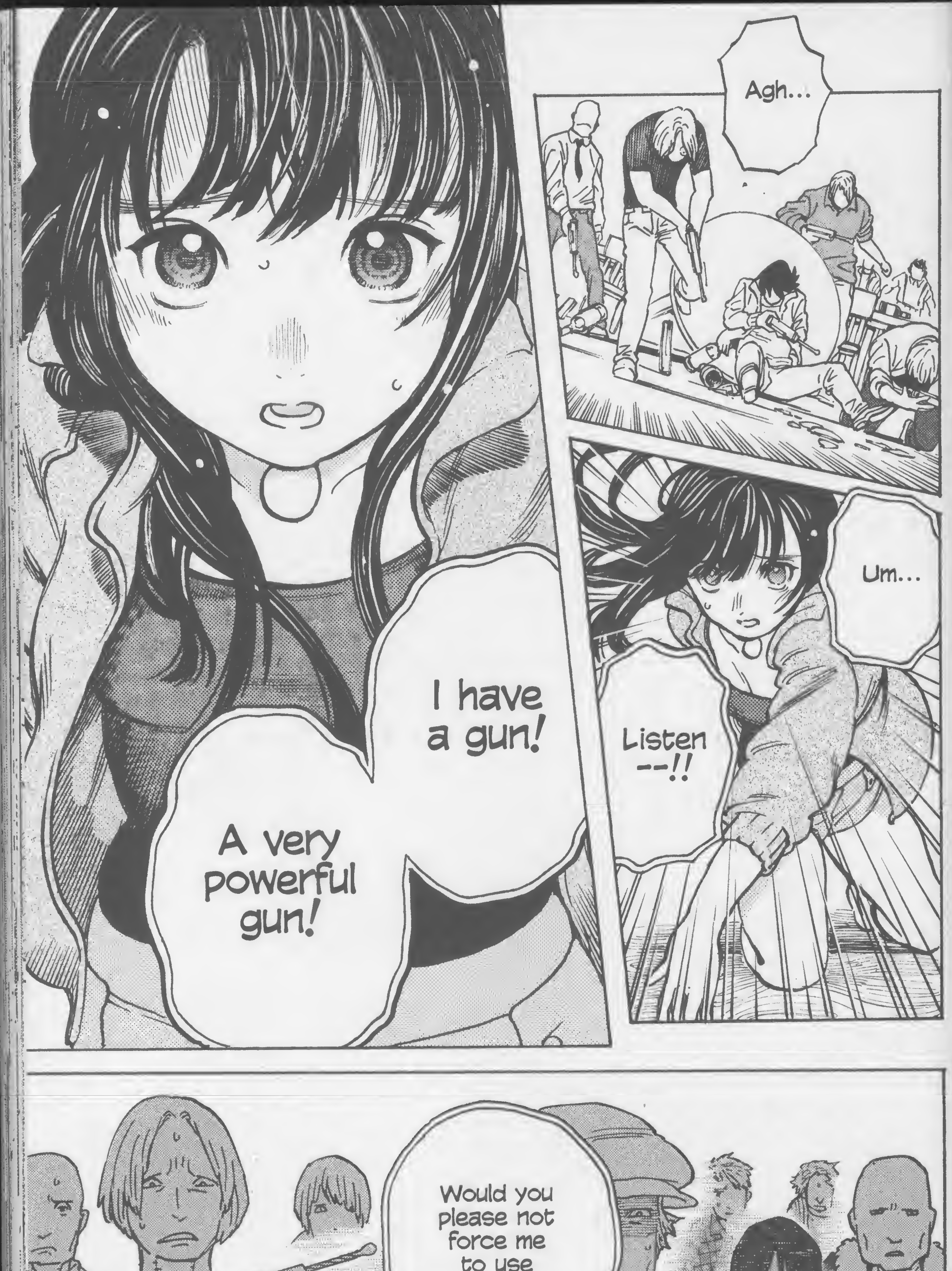

What? No welcoming party?
What can I get you?
Milk, please.
...
I'll take that bottle.
Here you go.
What are they thinking?
That they'll get us drunk before we talk?
SHH
ス

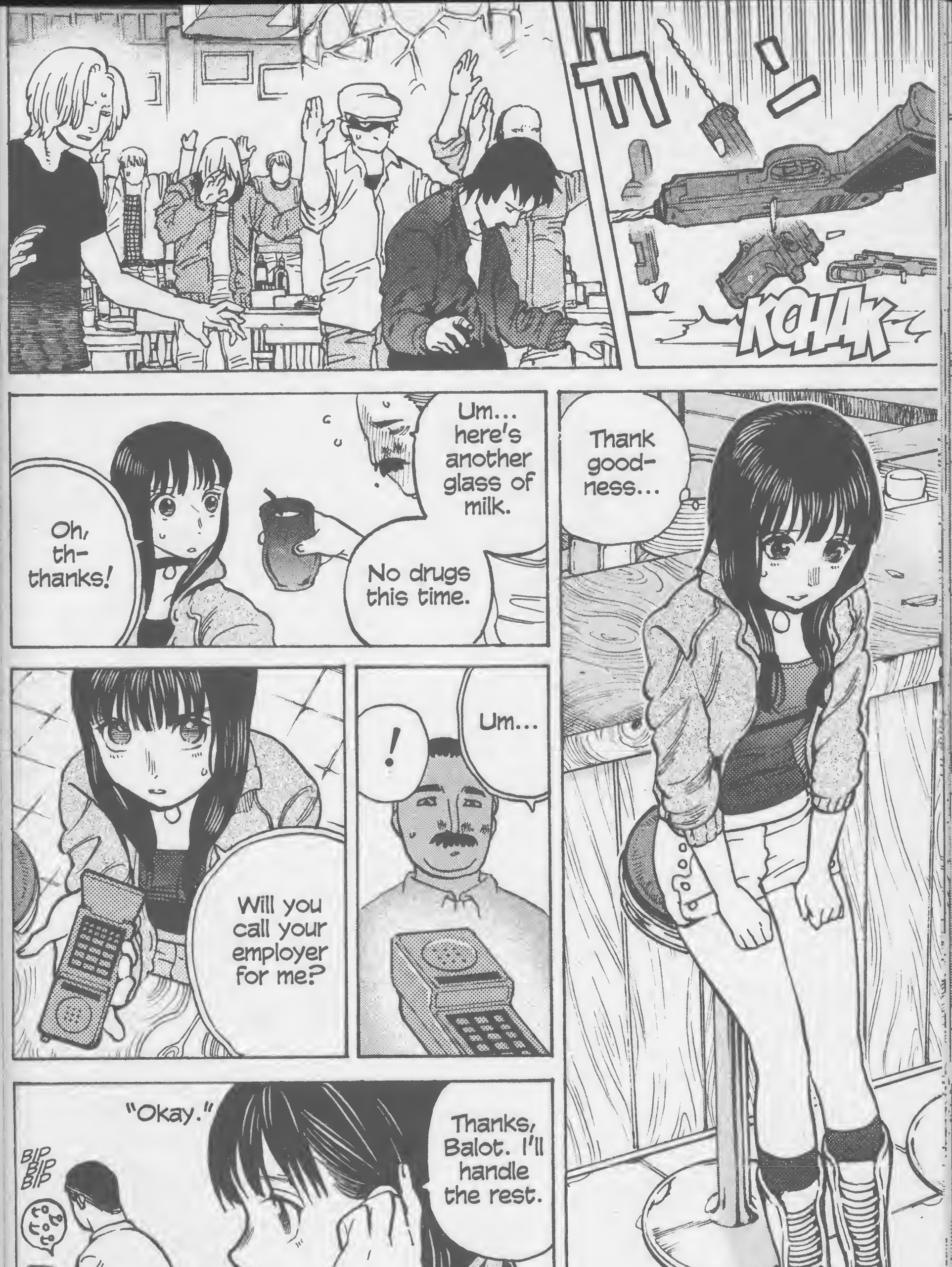

It's drugged.
TAP
トン!
They're not going to act until I drink this.
They want you to disappear, and that's that...
Very pesky, aren't they?
There's nothing for me to do here, then.
Yes, I see.
What's the plan?

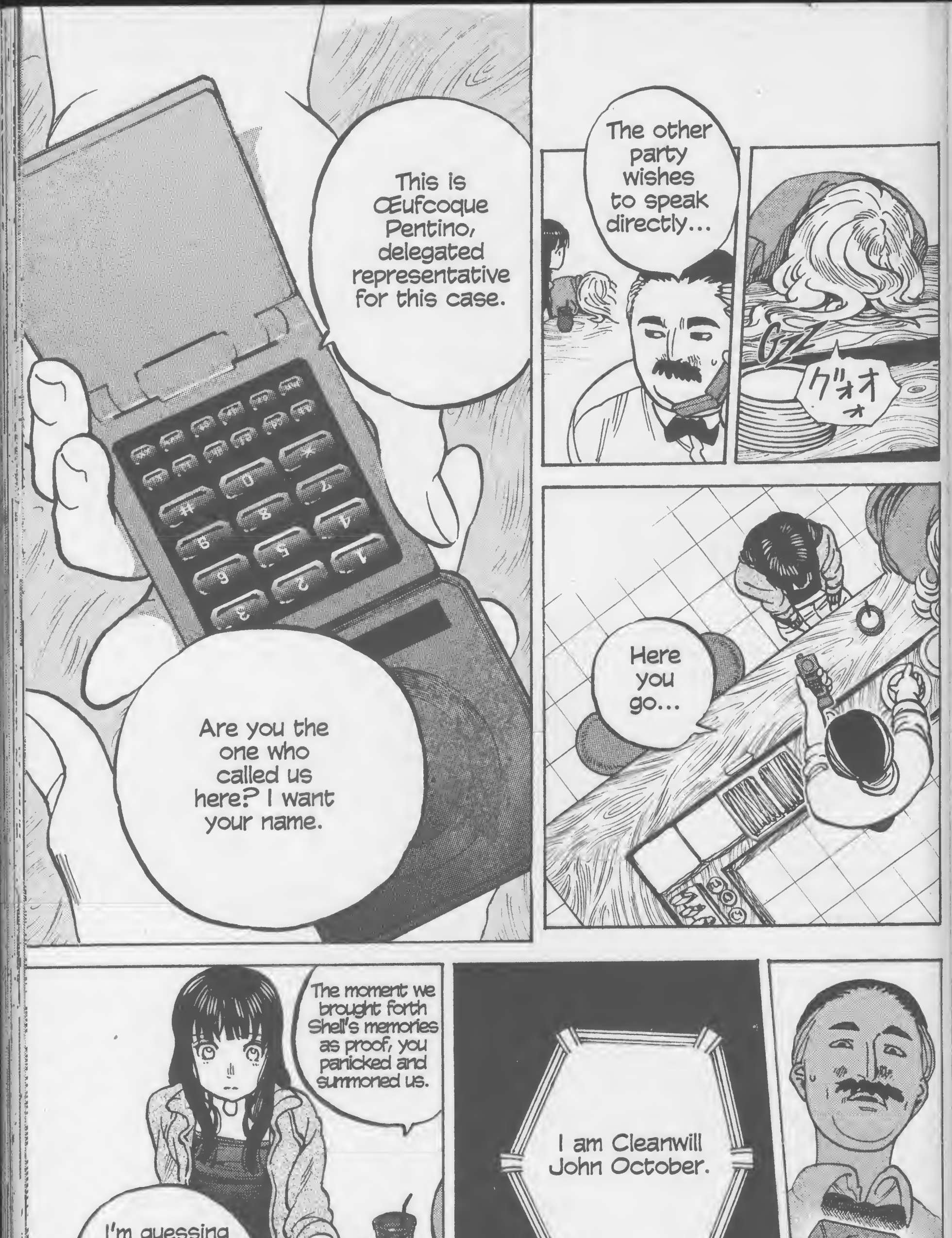

Good luck with the rest!
SWISH
GLUG
...
Good night!
GONK

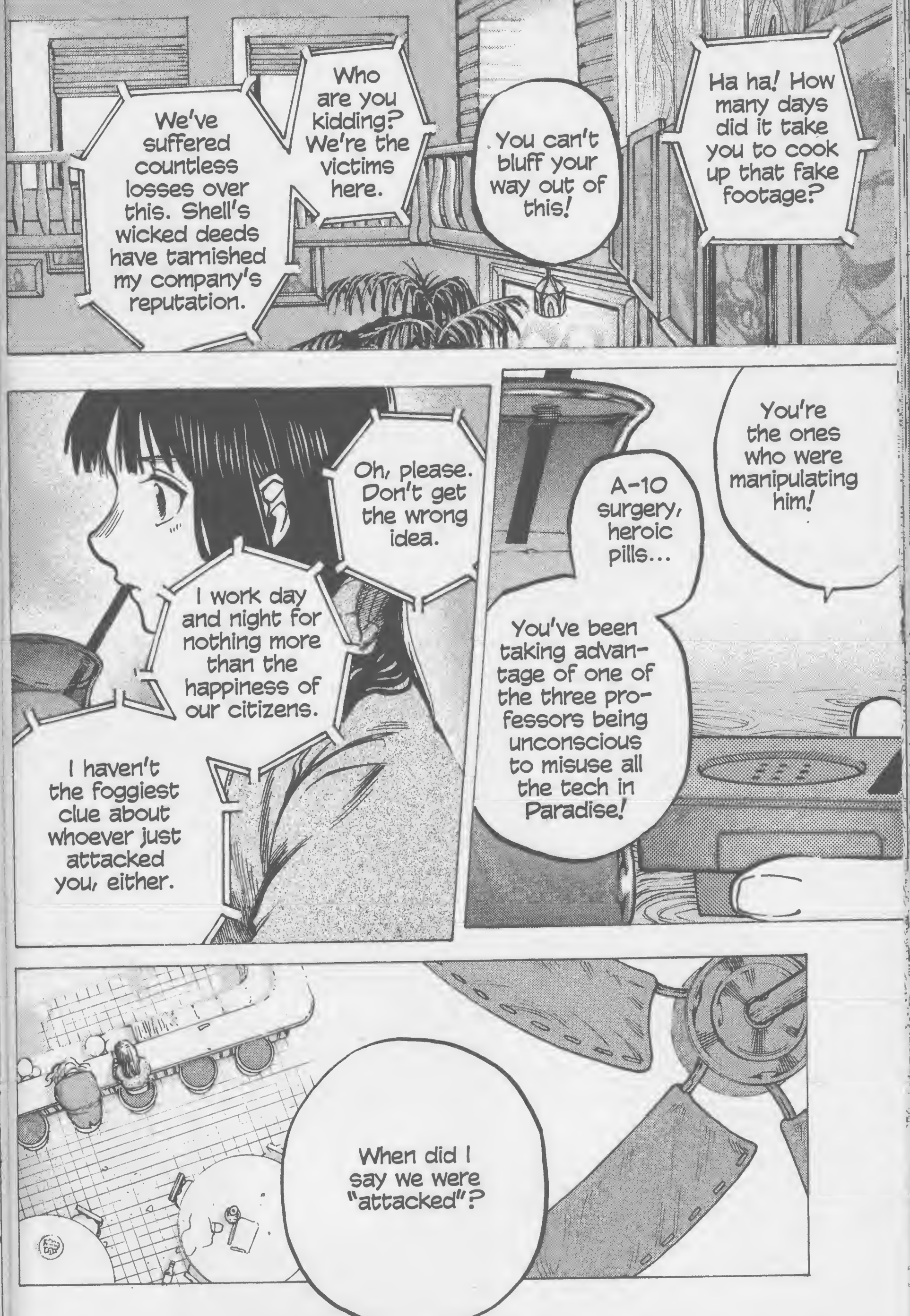

Here they come!
Ugh!
Aah...
KAK
ZSHH
CRAASH
SWISH
What the hell is she doing?!

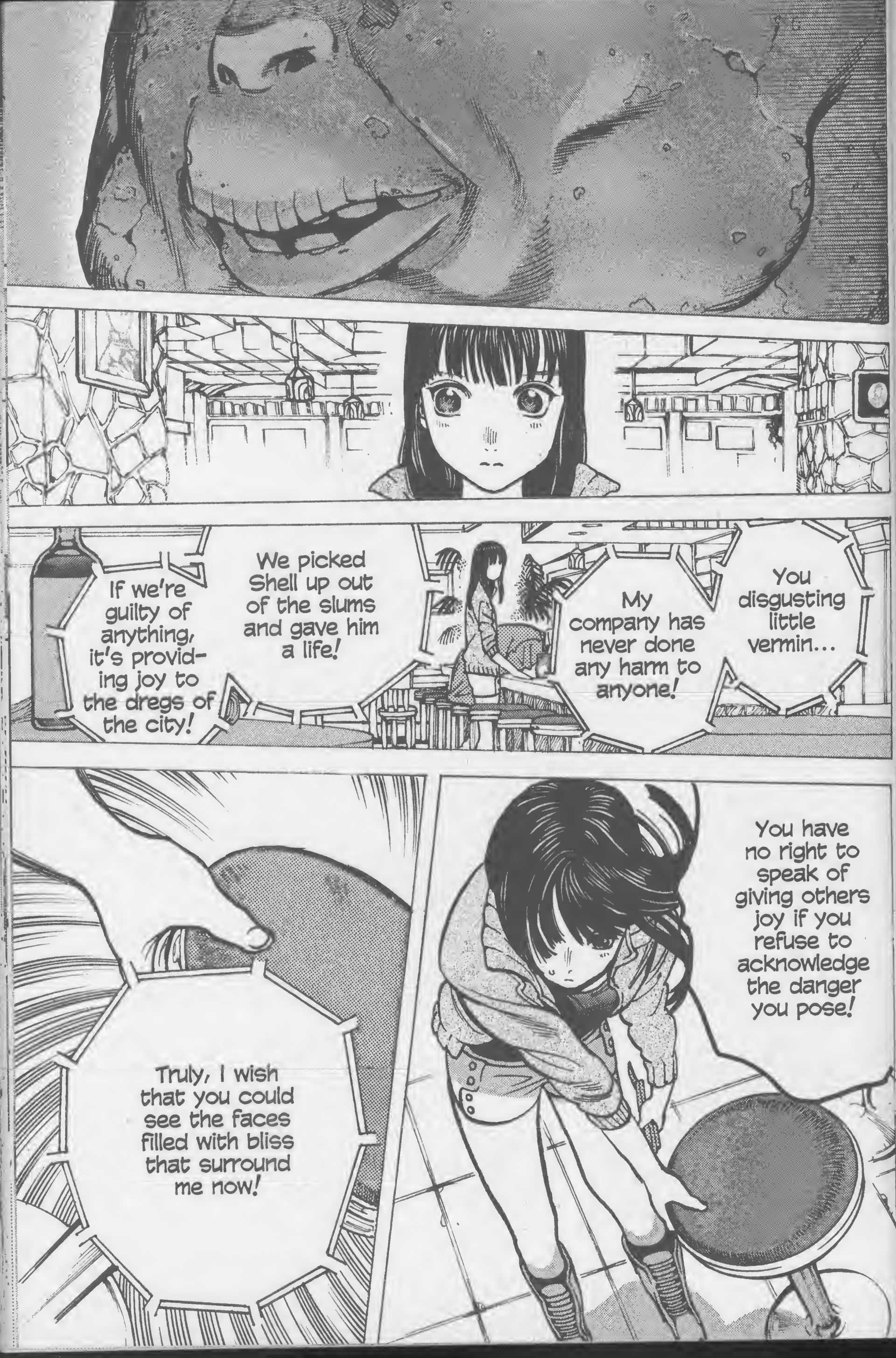

KAK
KAK
KAK
カッ
KRASHK
VFF
THUK
THUK
THUK
カ
カ
カ

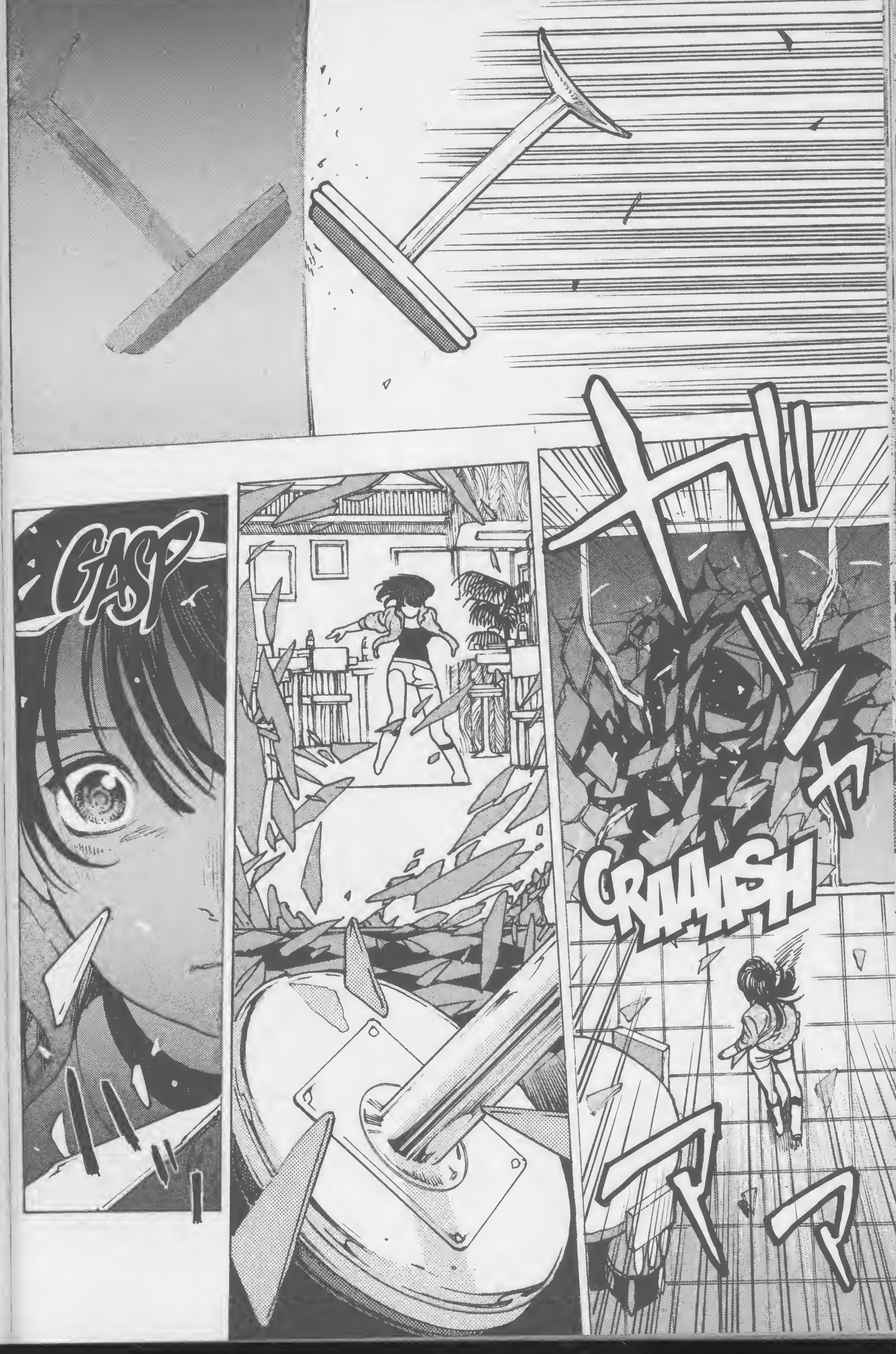

Agh...
Um...
Listen --!!
I have a gun!
A very powerful gun!
Would you please not force me to use it...?

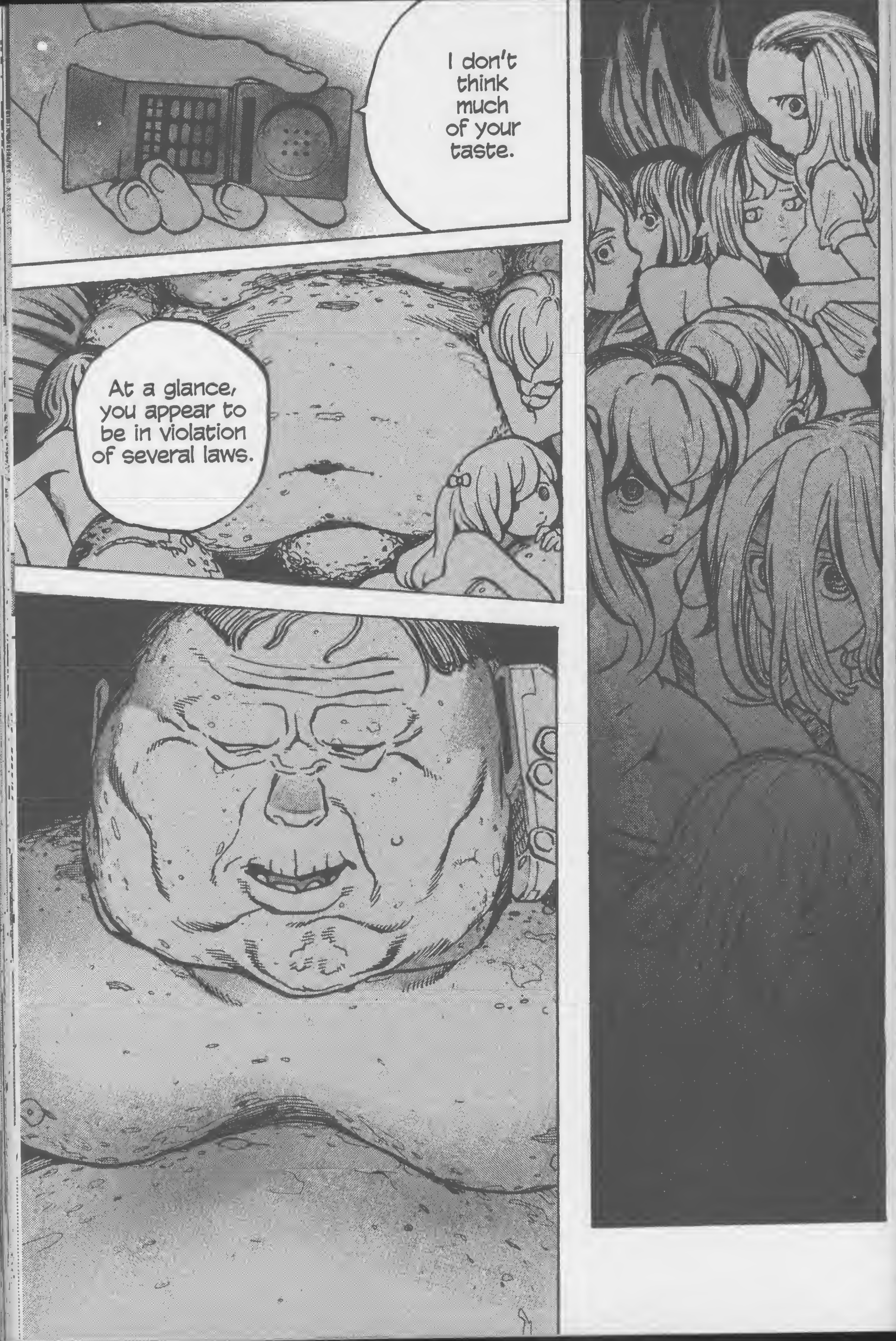

カン
KCHAK
Thank good-ness...
Um... here's another glass of milk.
No drugs this time.
Oh, th-thanks!
Um...
!
Will you call your employer for me?
Thanks, Balot. I'll handle the rest.
"Okay."
BIP BIP BIP
ピピピ

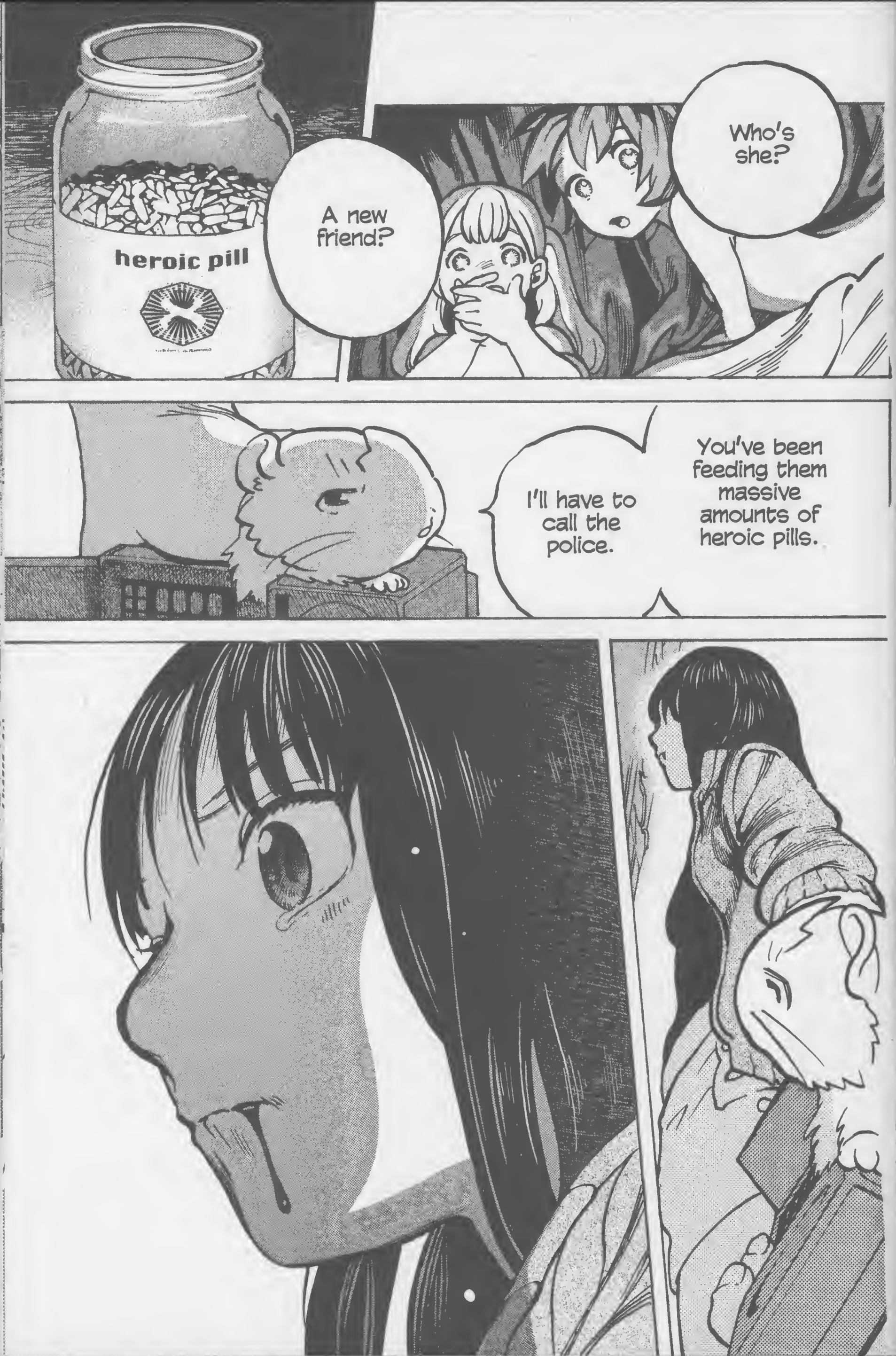

The other party wishes to speak directly...
GZZ
グオオオ
This is Œufcoque Pentino, delegated representative for this case.
Are you the one who called us here? I want your name.
Here you go...
I am Cleanwill John October.
The moment we brought forth Shell's memories as proof, you panicked and summoned us.
I'm guessing that means you didn't know Shell was saving his memories.

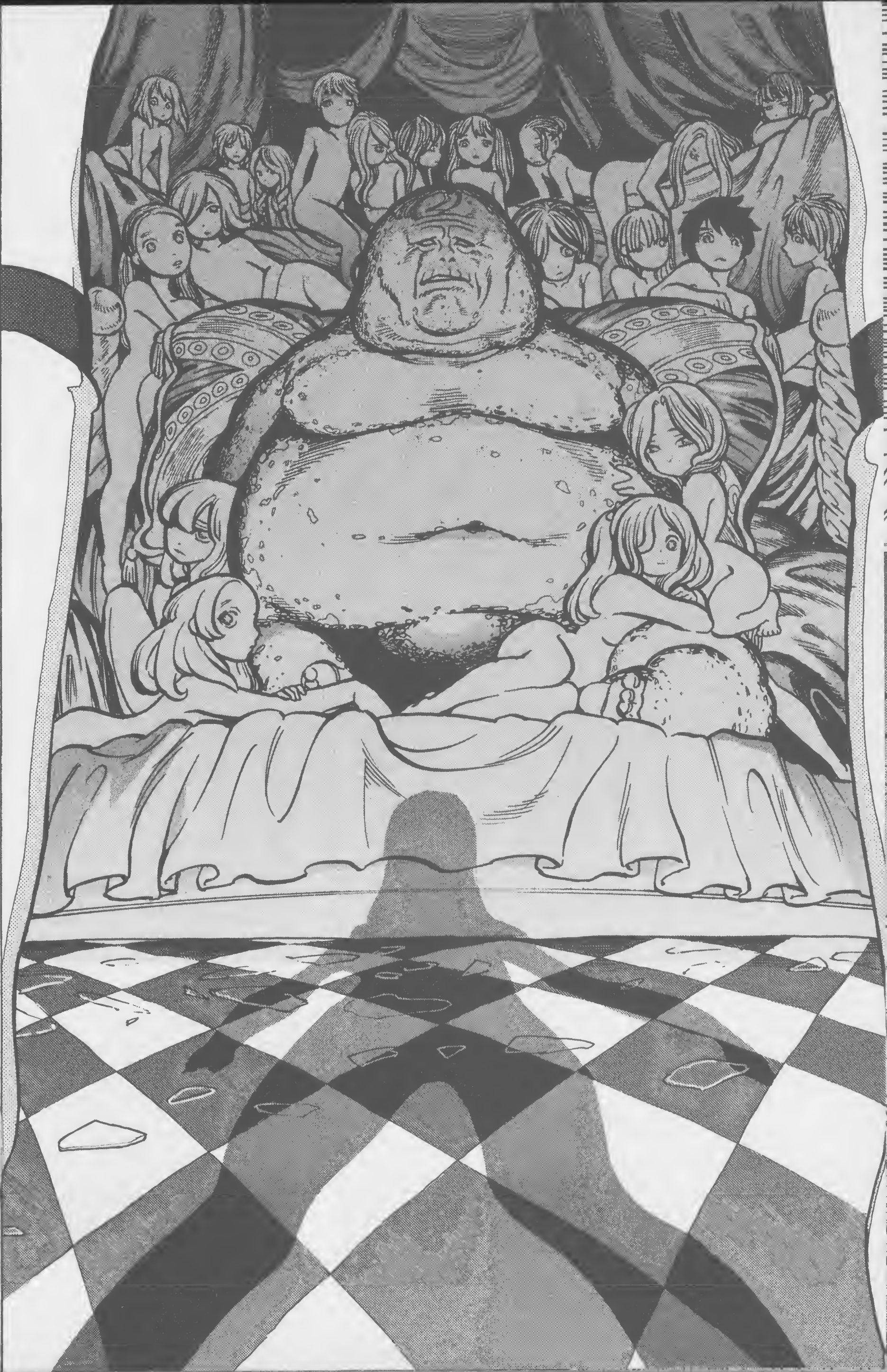

Ha ha! How many days did it take you to cook up that fake footage?
You can't bluff your way out of this!
Who are you kidding? We're the victims here.
We've suffered countless losses over this. Shell's wicked deeds have tarnished my company's reputation.
You're the ones who were manipulating him!
A-10 surgery, heroic pills...
You've been taking advantage of one of the three professors being unconscious to misuse all the tech in Paradise!
Oh, please. Don't get the wrong idea.
I work day and night for nothing more than the happiness of our citizens.
I haven't the foggiest clue about whoever just attacked you, either.
When did I say we were "attacked"?

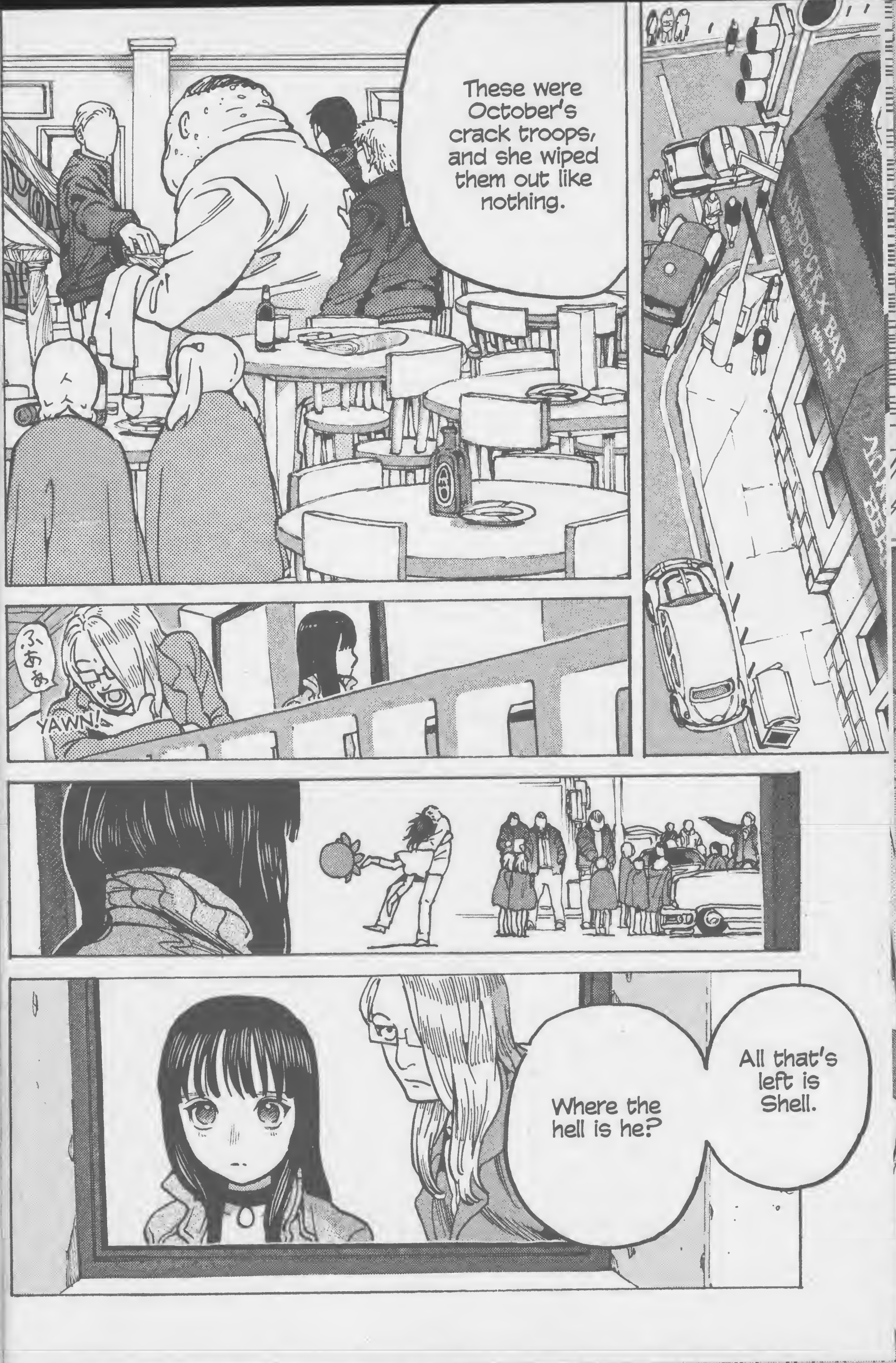

You disgusting little vermin...
My company has never done any harm to anyone!
We picked Shell up out of the slums and gave him a life!
If we're guilty of anything, it's providing joy to the dregs of the city!
You have no right to speak of giving others joy if you refuse to acknowledge the danger you pose!
Truly, I wish that you could see the faces filled with bliss that surround me now!

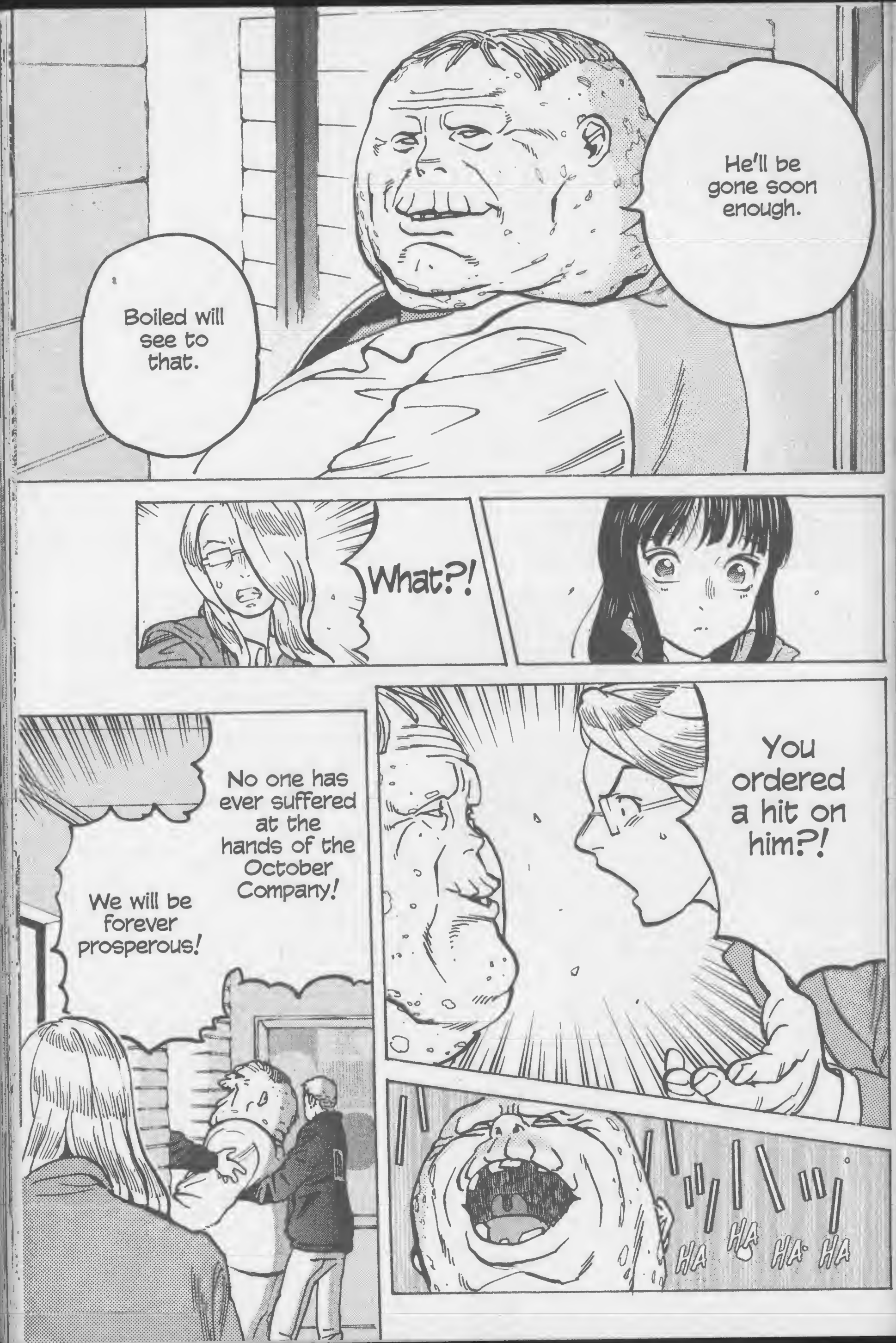

CRAAASH
GASP

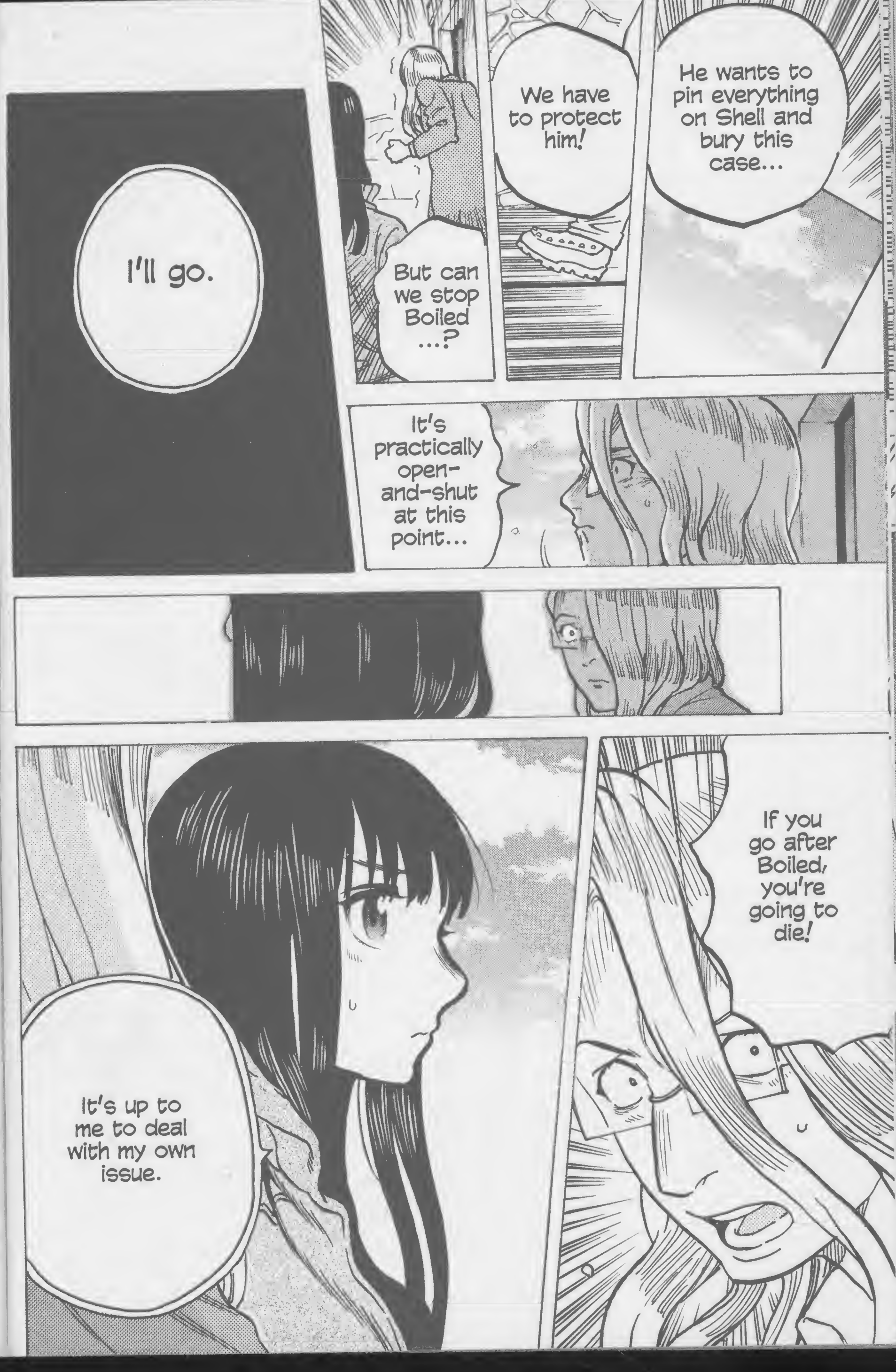

I don't think much of your taste.
At a glance, you appear to be in violation of several laws.

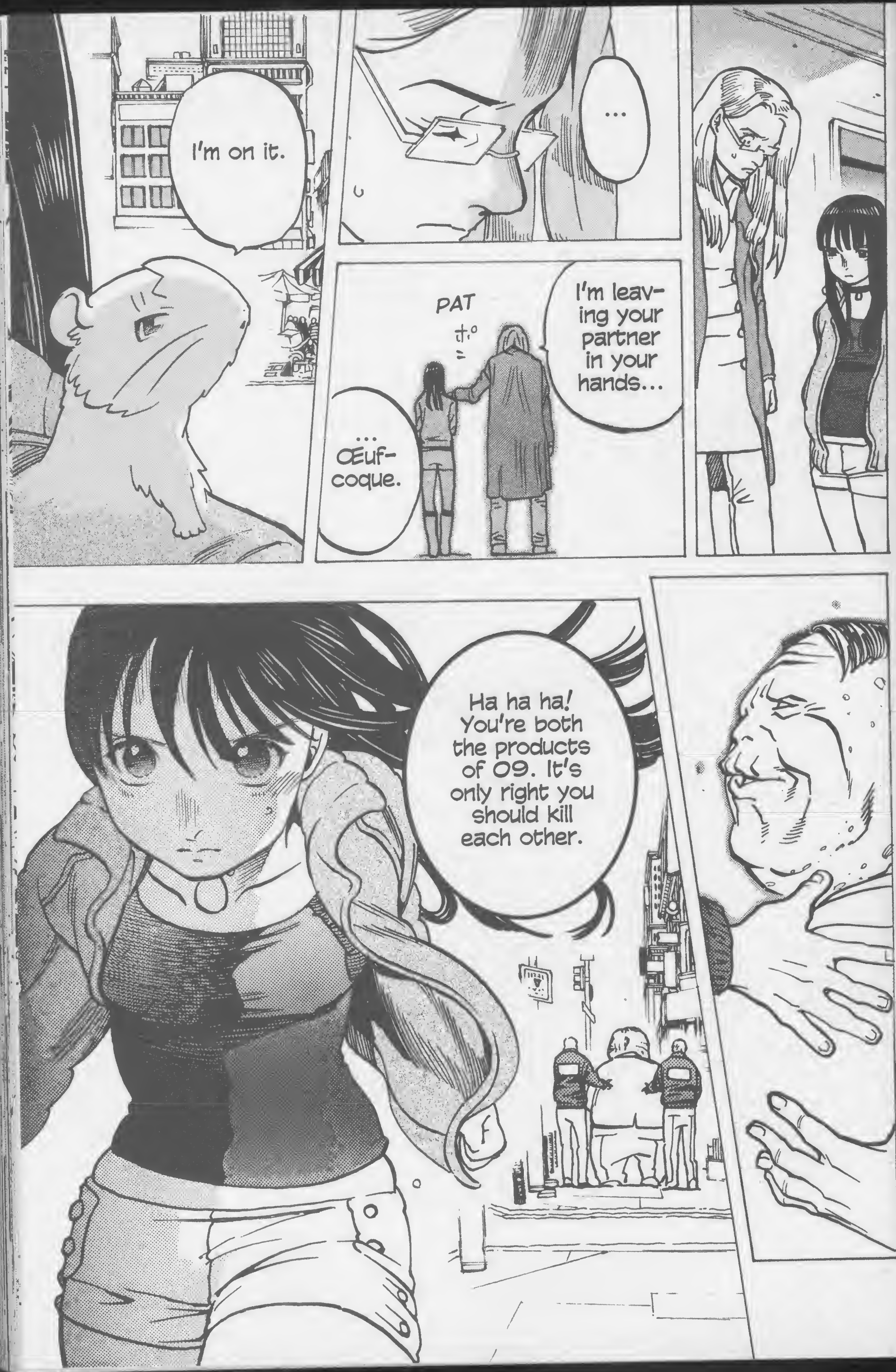

Who's she?
A new friend?
heroic pill
You've been feeding them massive amounts of heroic pills.
I'll have to call the police.




These were October's crack troops, and she wiped them out like nothing.
ふあぁ
YAWN!
All that's left is Shell.
Where the hell is he?


He'll be gone soon enough.
Boiled will see to that.
What?!
You ordered a hit on him?!
No one has ever suffered at the hands of the October Company!
We will be forever prosperous!
HA HA HA HA


He wants to pin everything on Shell and bury this case...
We have to protect him!
But can we stop Boiled ...?
It's practically open-and-shut at this point...
I'll go.
If you go after Boiled, you're going to die!
It's up to me to deal with my own issue.

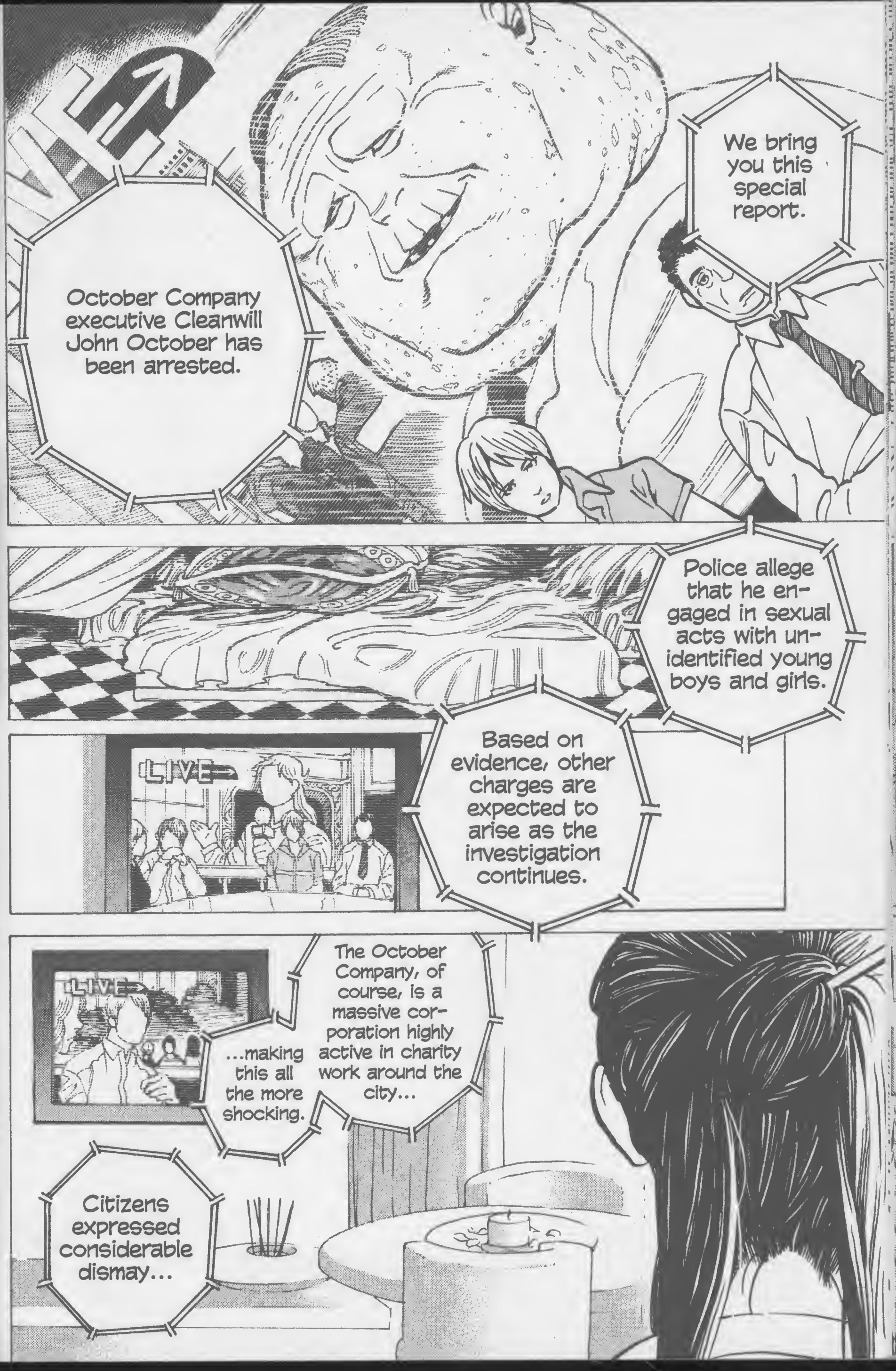

...
I'm on it.
PAT
I'm leav-ing your partner in your hands...
... Œuf-coque.
Ha ha ha! You're both the products of 09. It's only right you should kill each other.

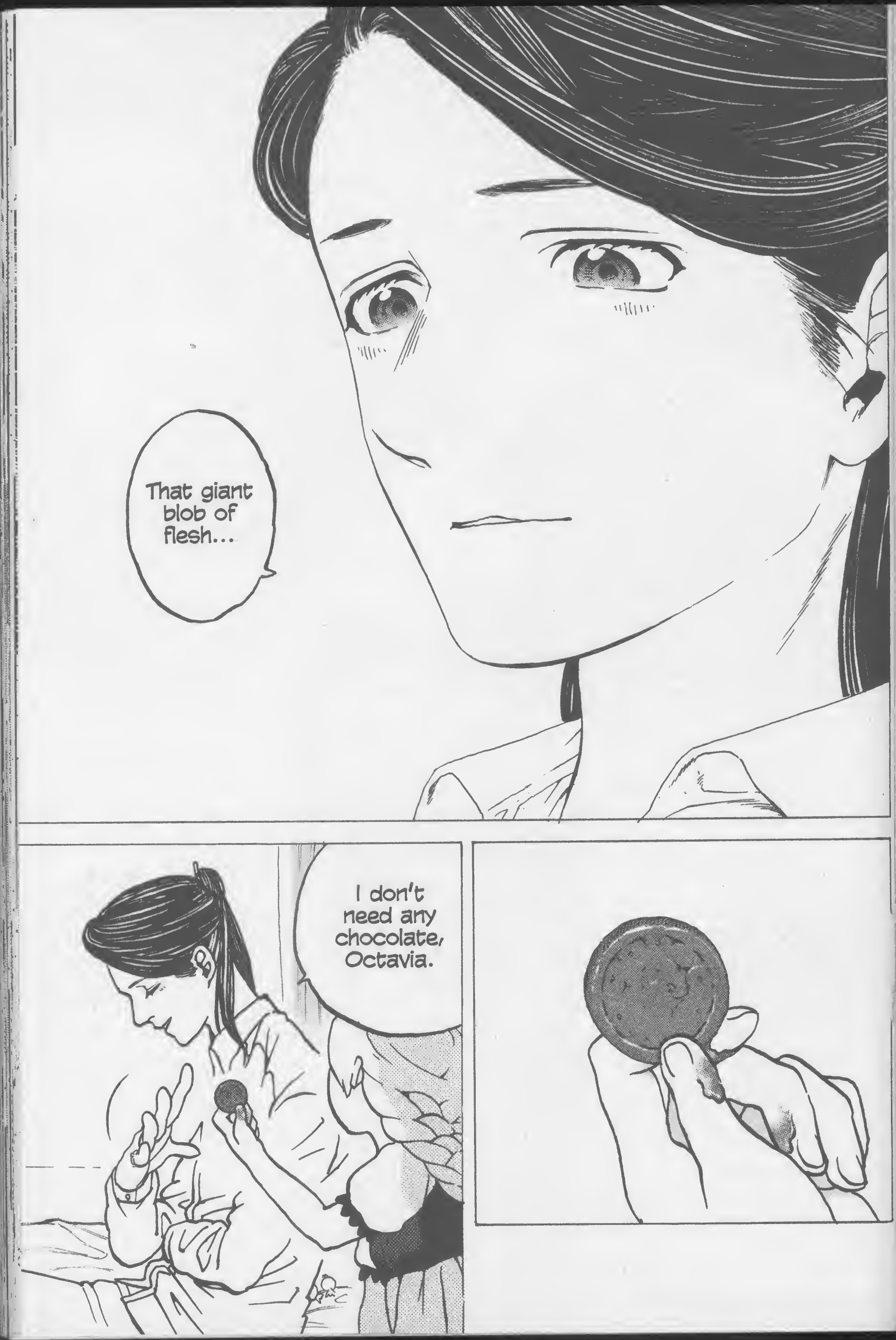
CHOCOLATE
CHOCOLATE

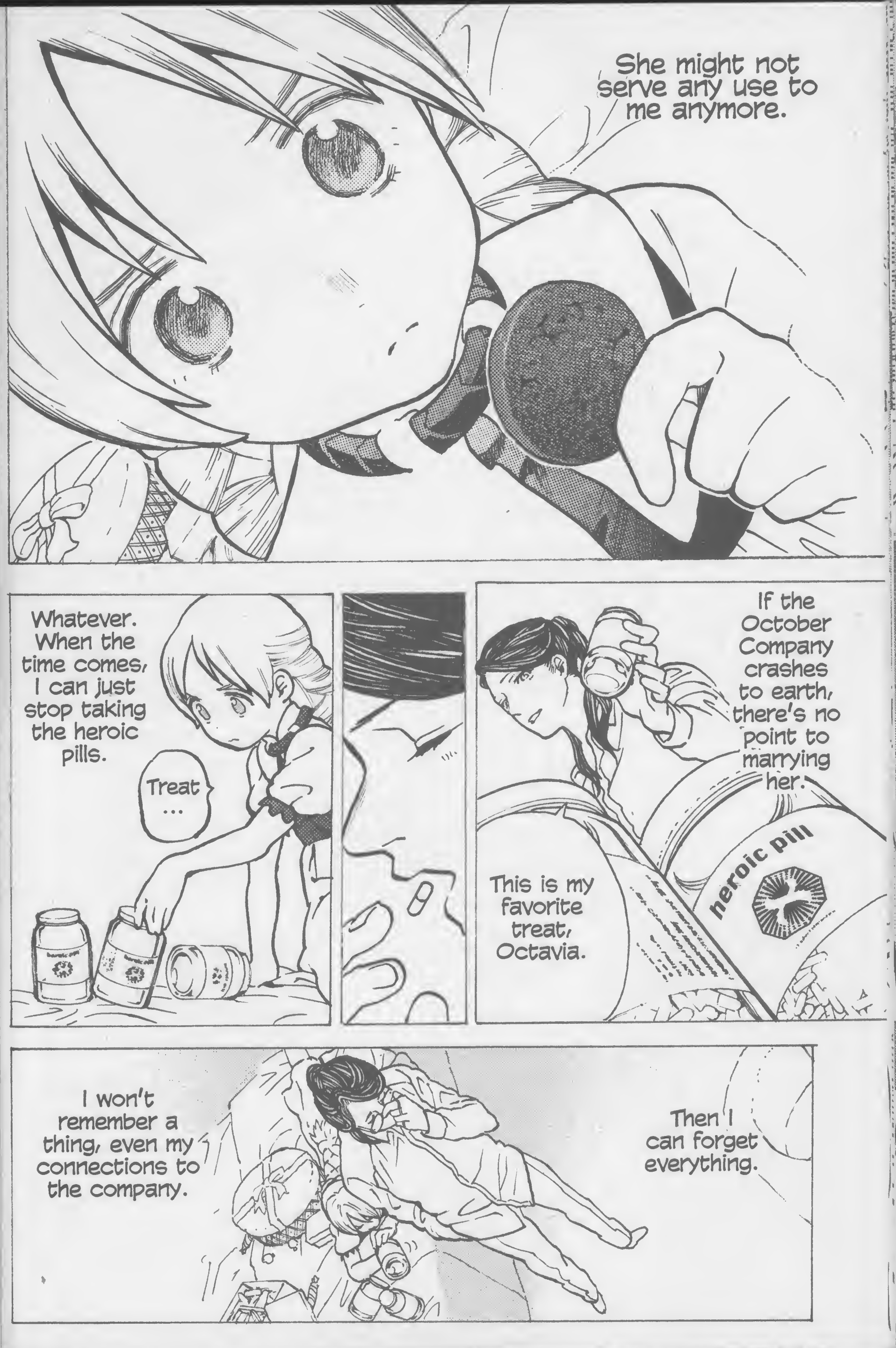
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

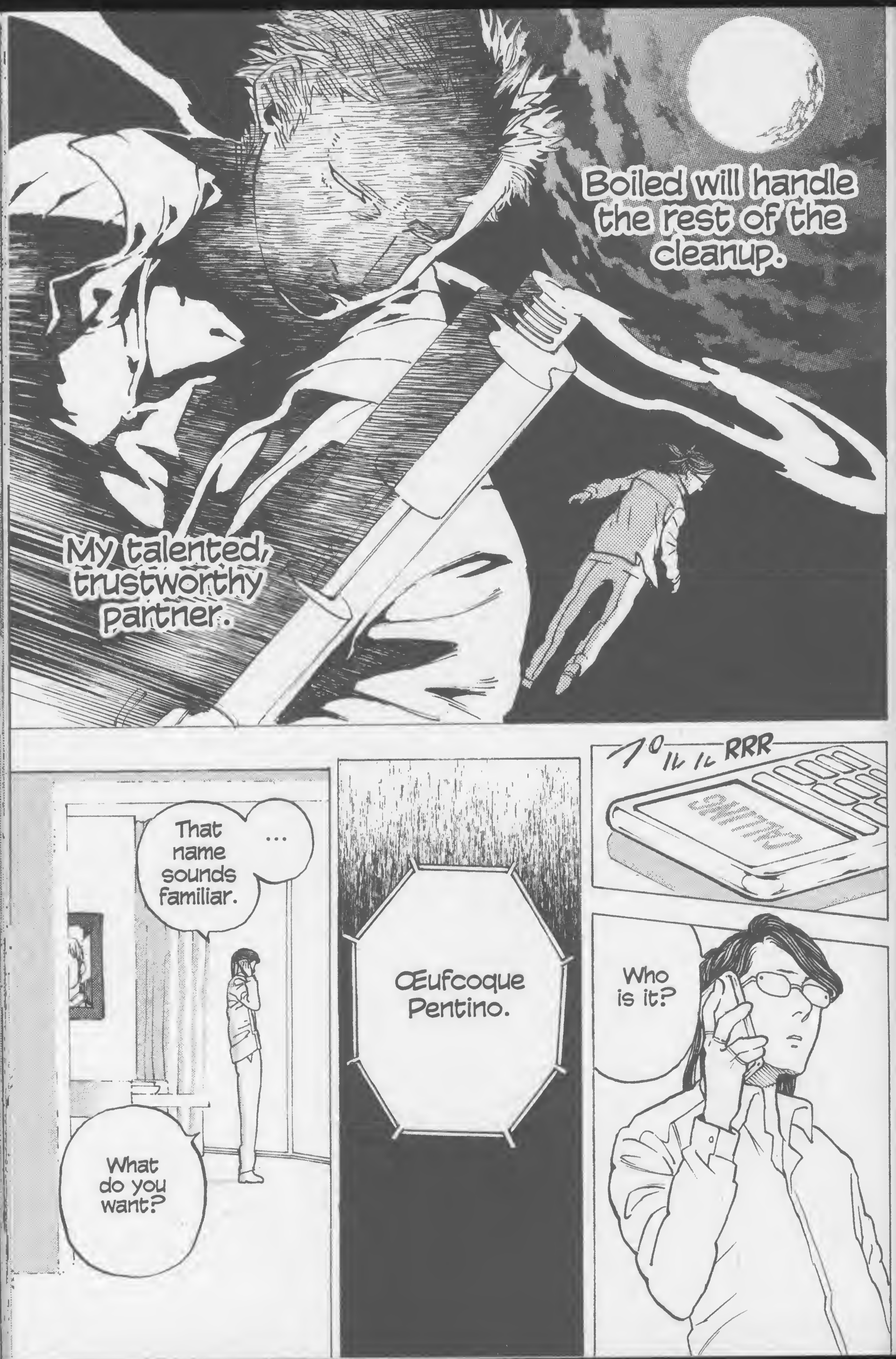
Chapter 30: Navigation (2)

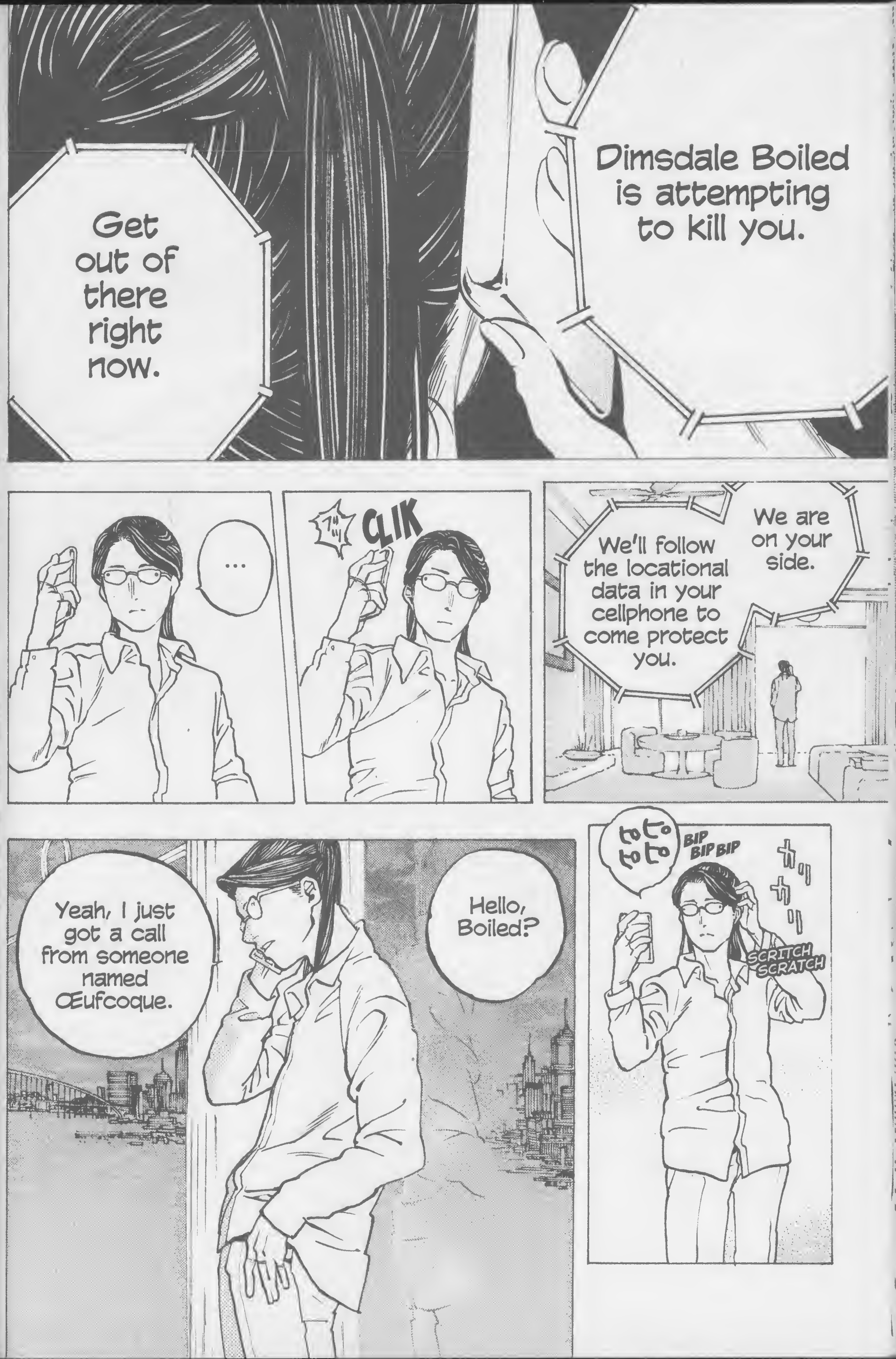
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

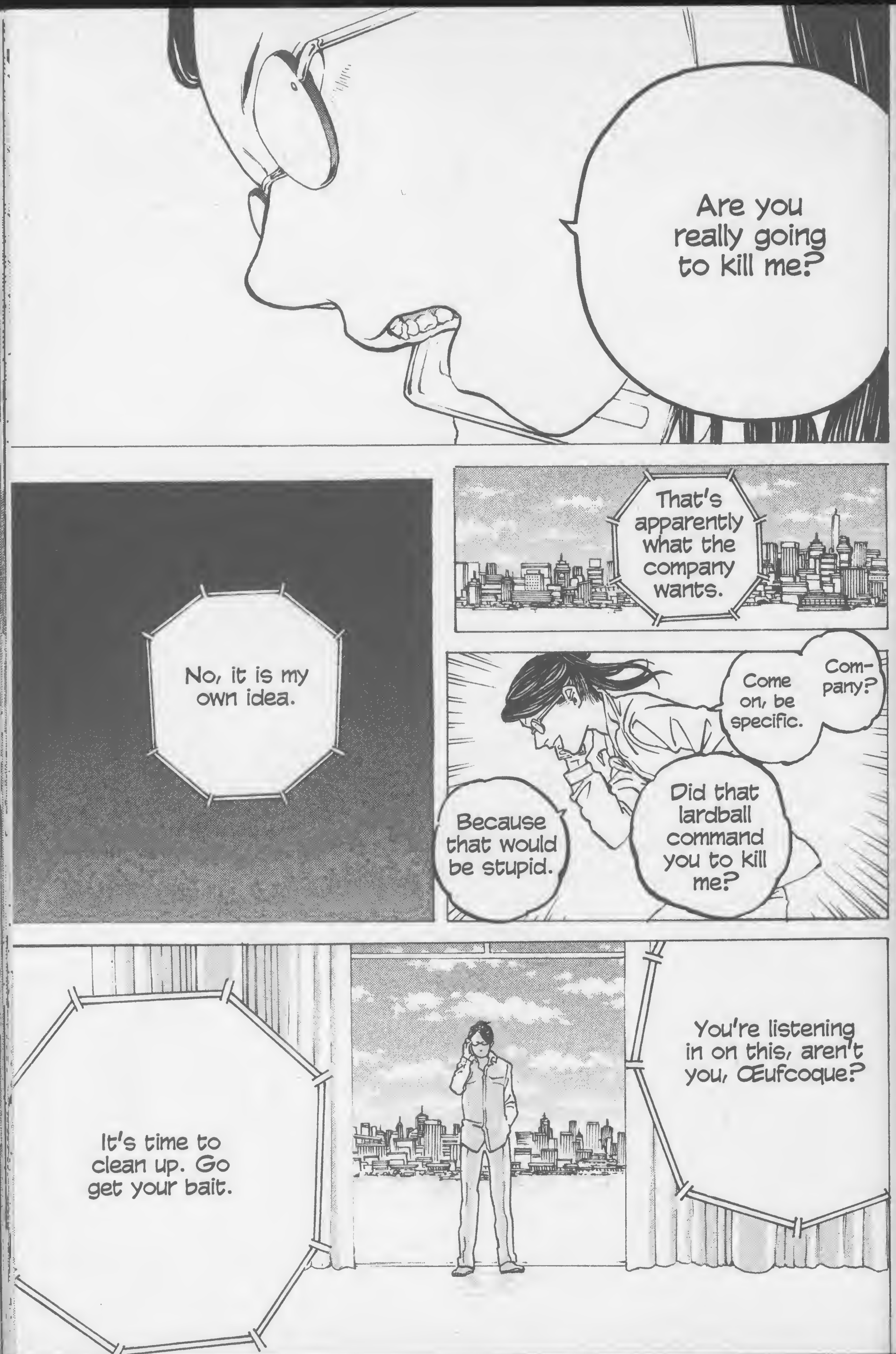

LIVE
We bring you this special report.
October Company executive Cleanwill John October has been arrested.
Police allege that he engaged in sexual acts with unidentified young boys and girls.
LIVE
Based on evidence, other charges are expected to arise as the investigation continues.
LIVE
The October Company, of course, is a massive corporation highly active in charity work around the city...
...making this all the more shocking.
Citizens expressed considerable dismay...

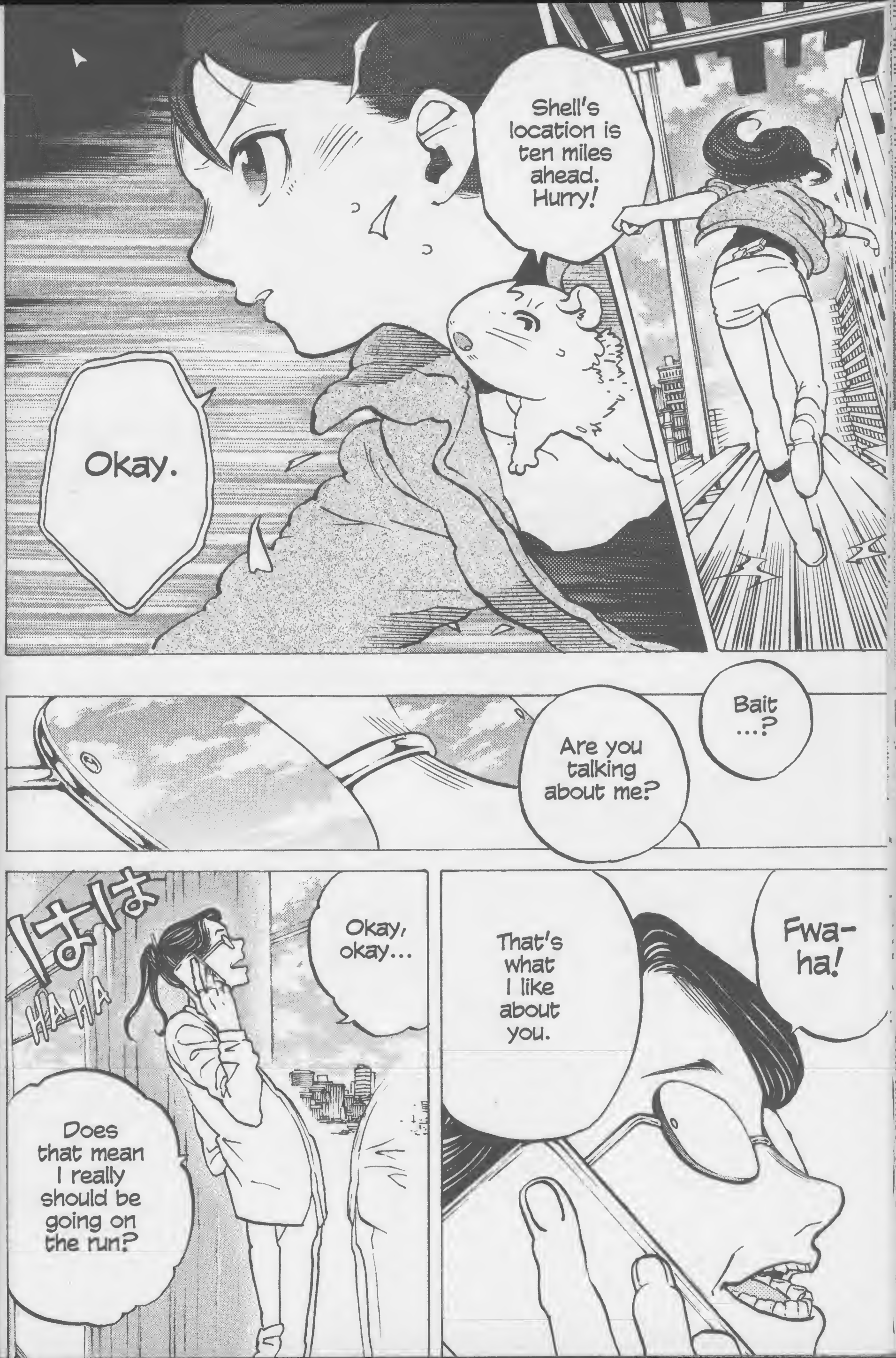

That giant blob of flesh...
I don't need any chocolate, Octavia.

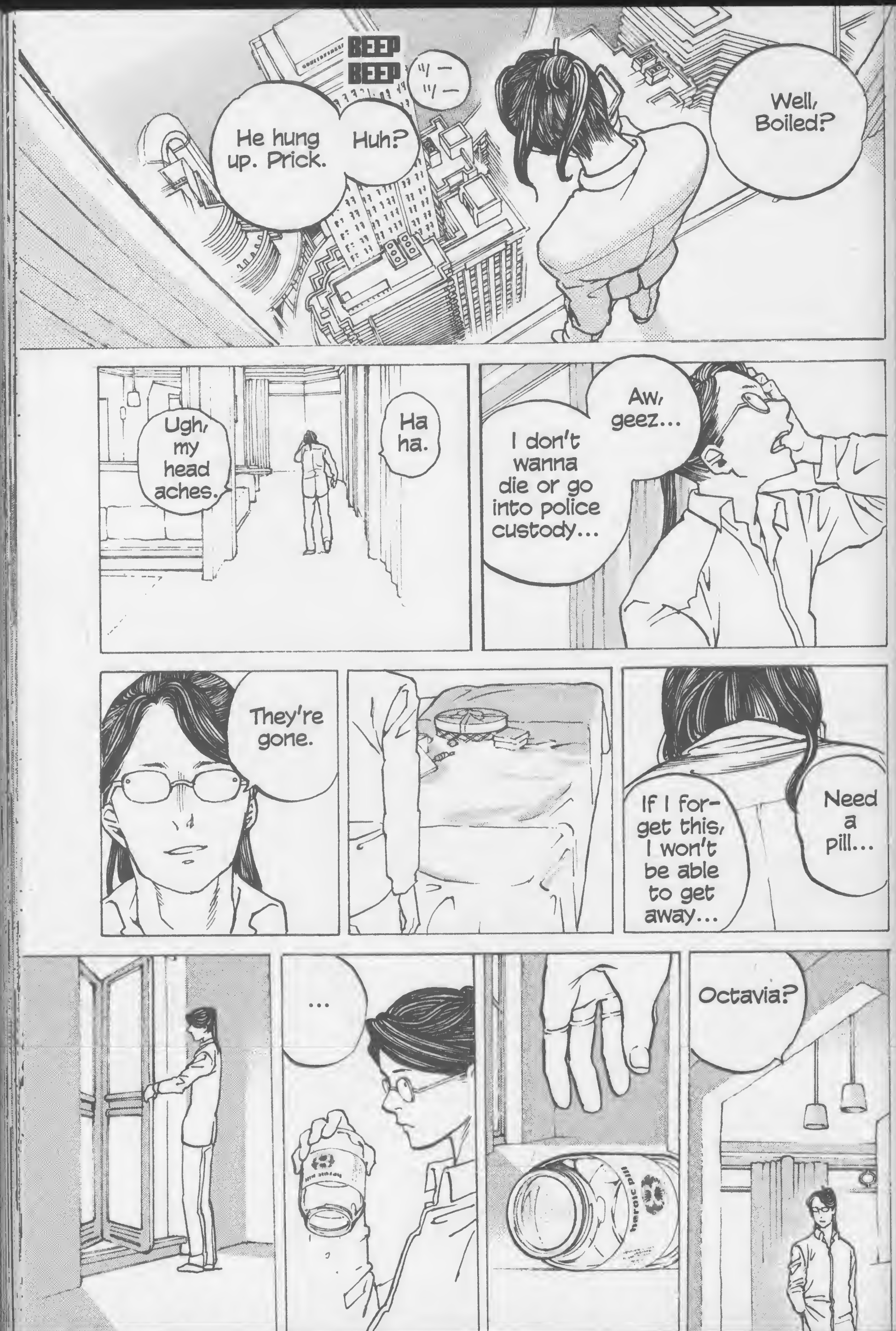

She might not serve any use to me anymore.
If the October Company crashes to earth, there's no point to marrying her.
This is my favorite treat, Octavia.
heroic pill
Treat ...
Whatever. When the time comes, I can just stop taking the heroic pills.
Then I can forget everything.
I won't remember a thing, even my connections to the company.

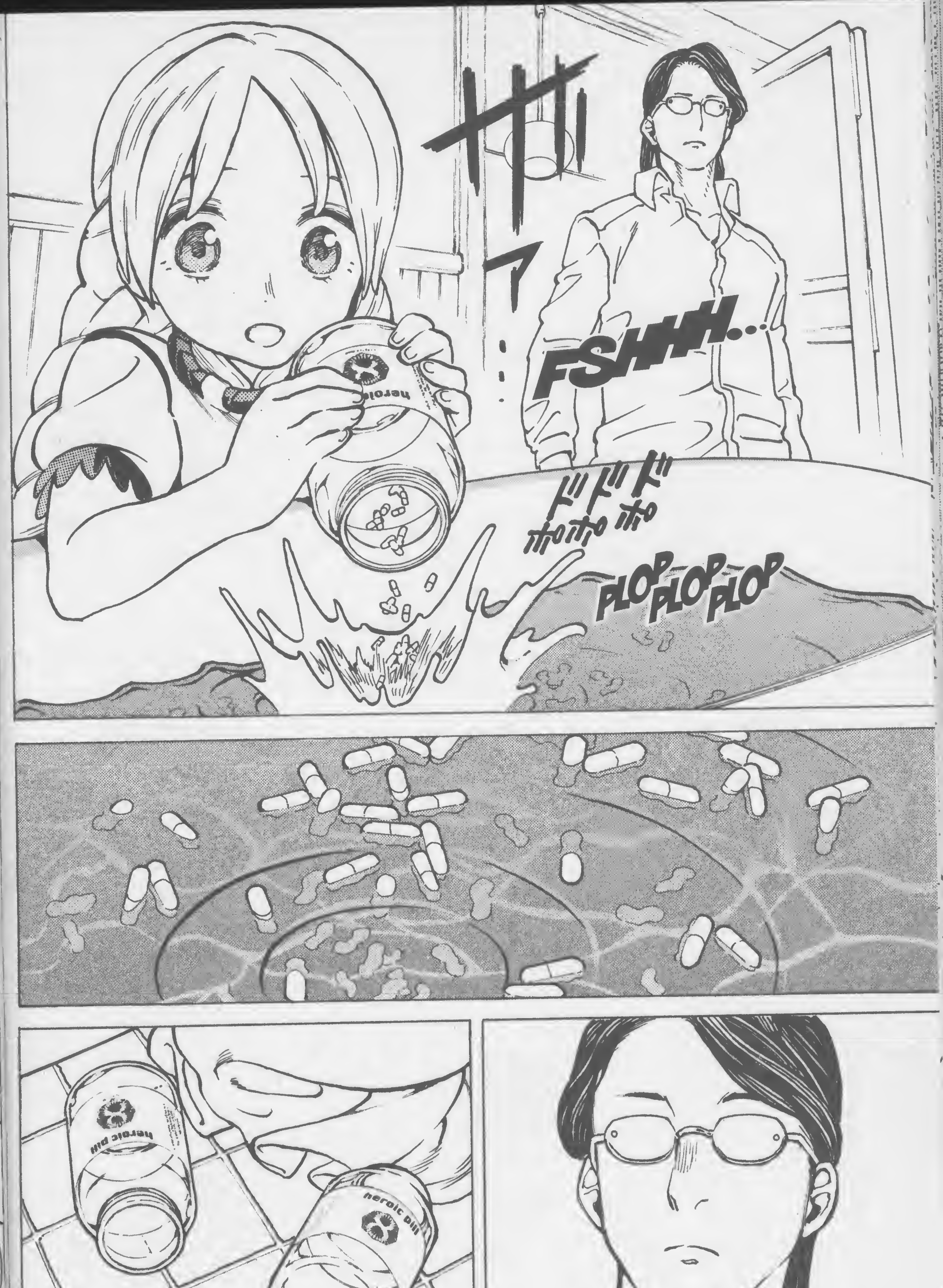

Boiled will handle the rest of the cleanup.
My talented, trustworthy partner.
プルル RRR
Who is it?
Œufcoque Pentino.
That name sounds familiar.
...
What do you want?

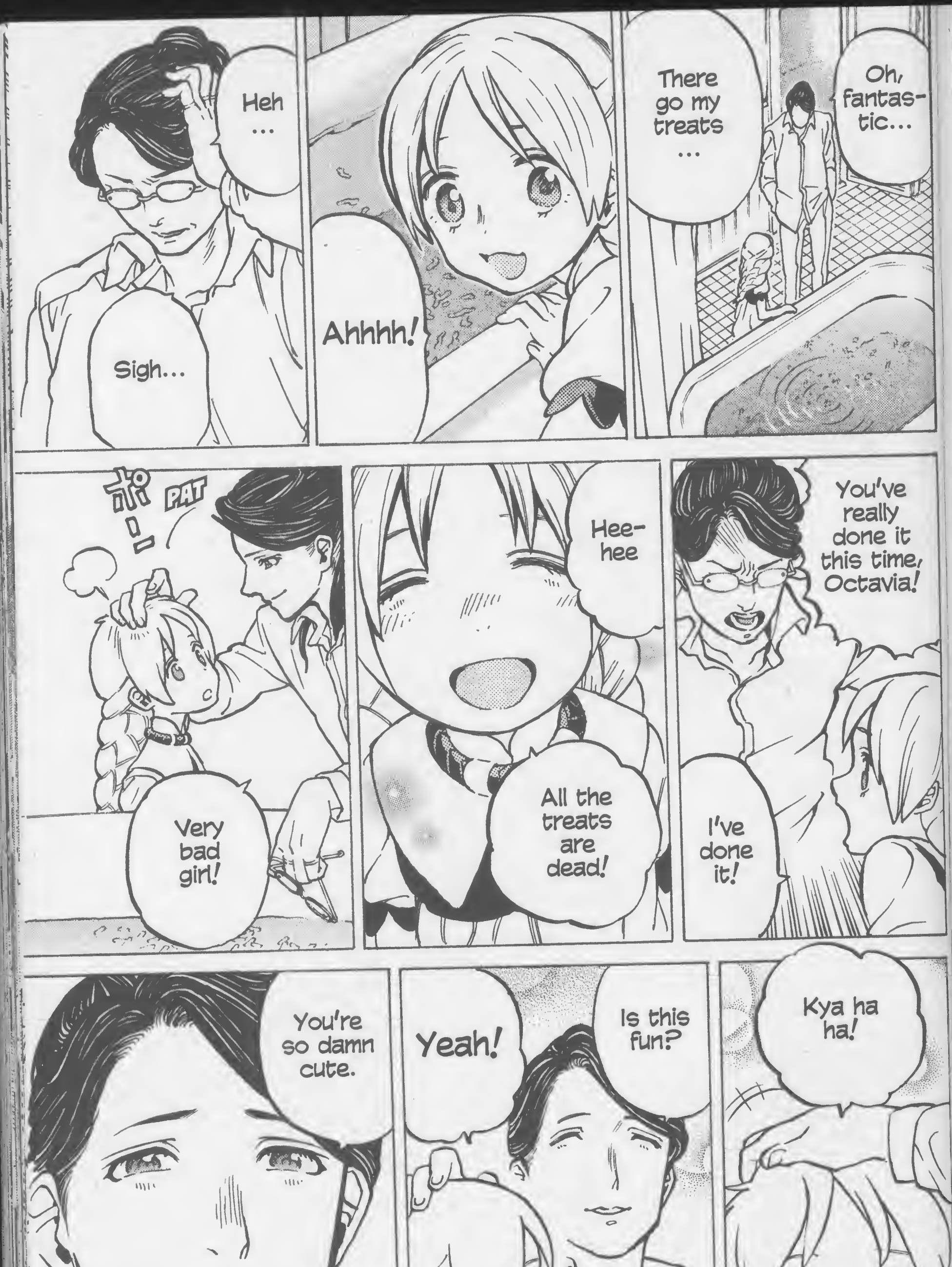

Dimsdale Boiled is attempting to kill you.
Get out of there right now.
We are on your side.
We'll follow the locational data in your cellphone to come protect you.
ブッ
CLIK
…
ぴぴぴぴ
BIP BIP BIP
カリカリ
SCRITCH SCRATCH
Hello, Boiled?
Yeah, I just got a call from someone named Œufcoque.

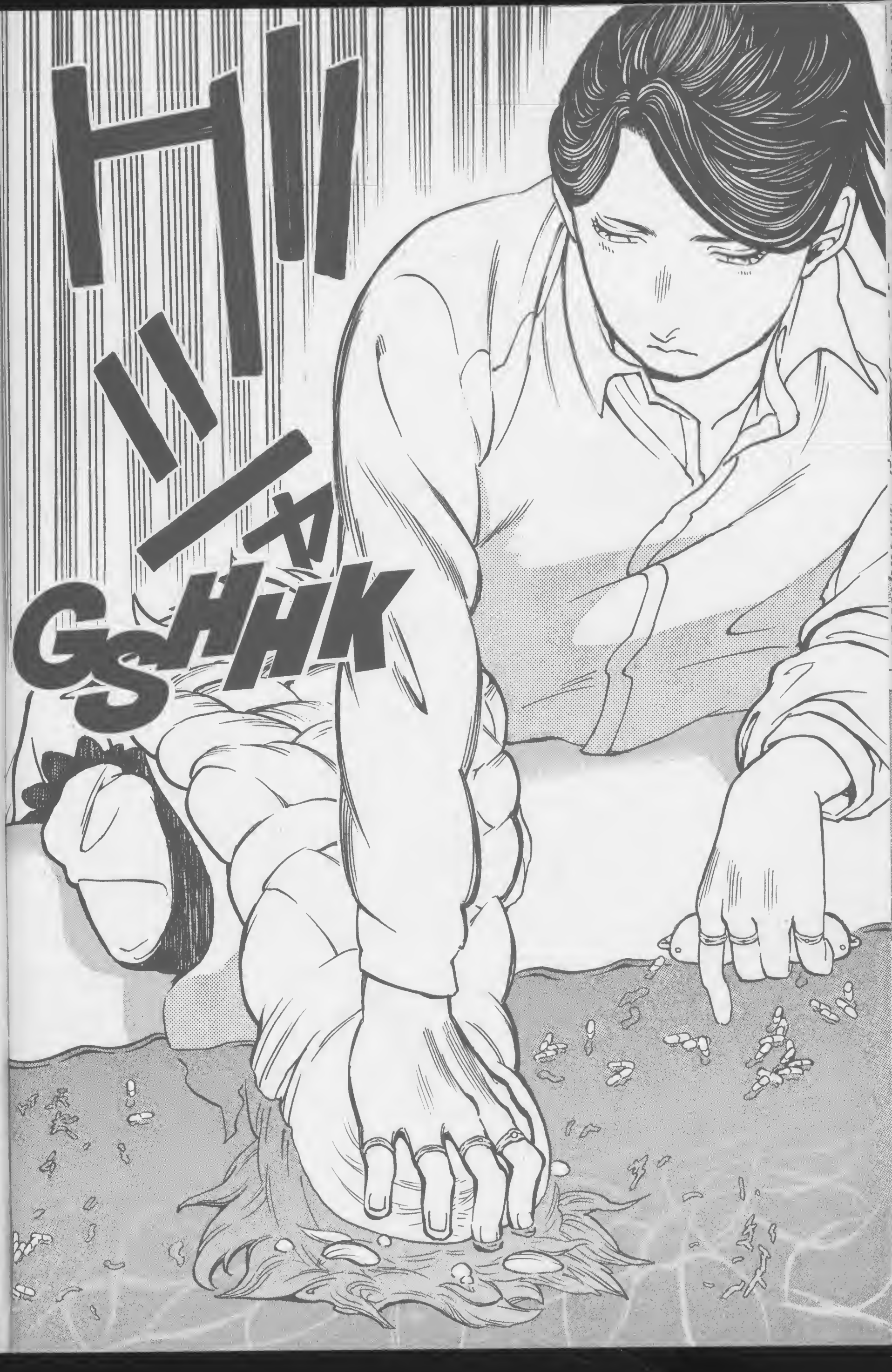

Are you really going to kill me?
That's apparently what the company wants.
Com-pany?
Come on, be specific.
Did that lardball command you to kill me?
Because that would be stupid.
No, it is my own idea.
You're listening in on this, aren't you, Œufcoque?
It's time to clean up. Go get your bait.

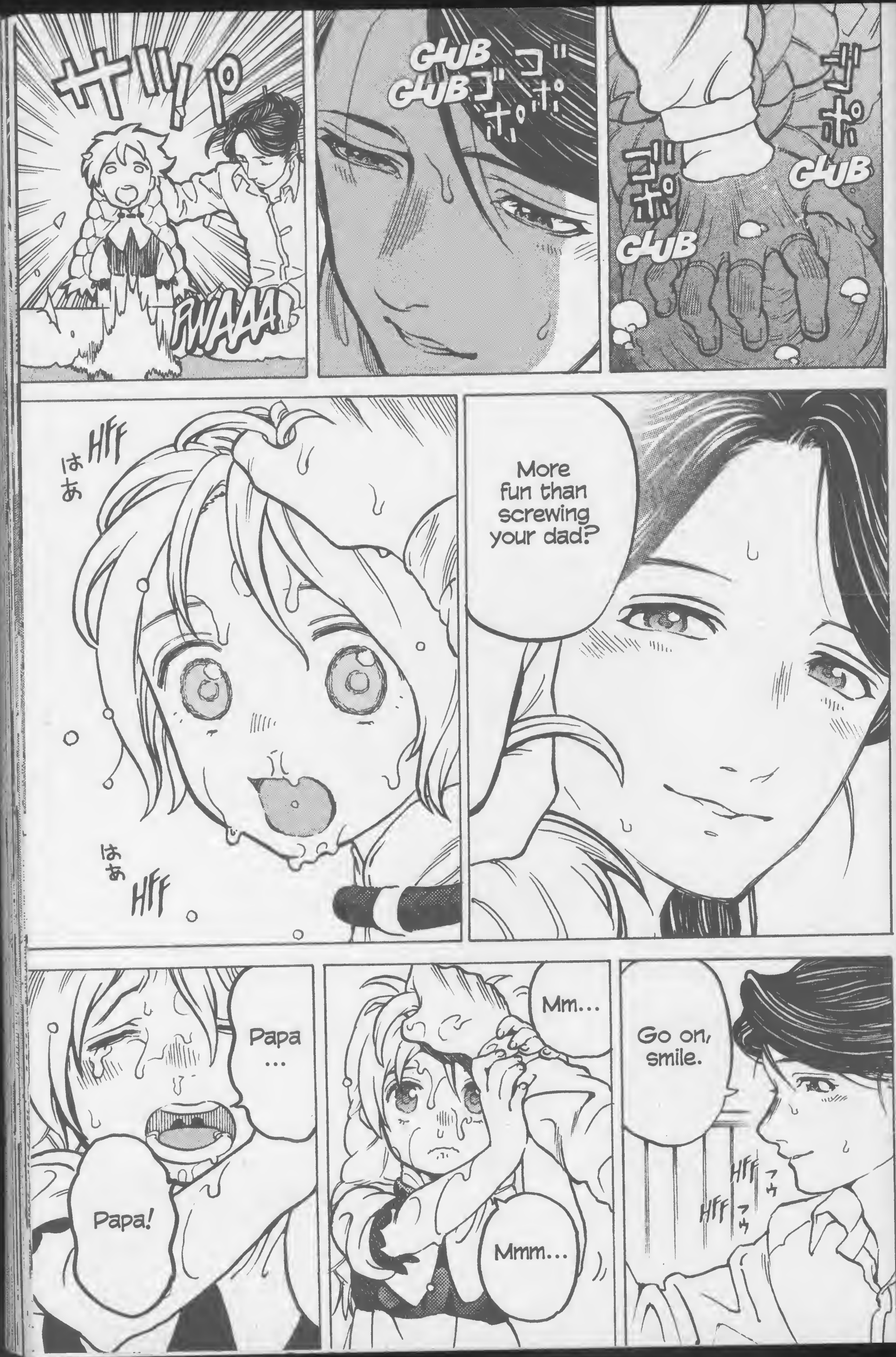

Shell's location is ten miles ahead. Hurry!
Okay.
Bait ...?
Are you talking about me?
Fwa-ha!
That's what I like about you.
Okay, okay...
Does that mean I really should be going on the run?
はは
HA HA

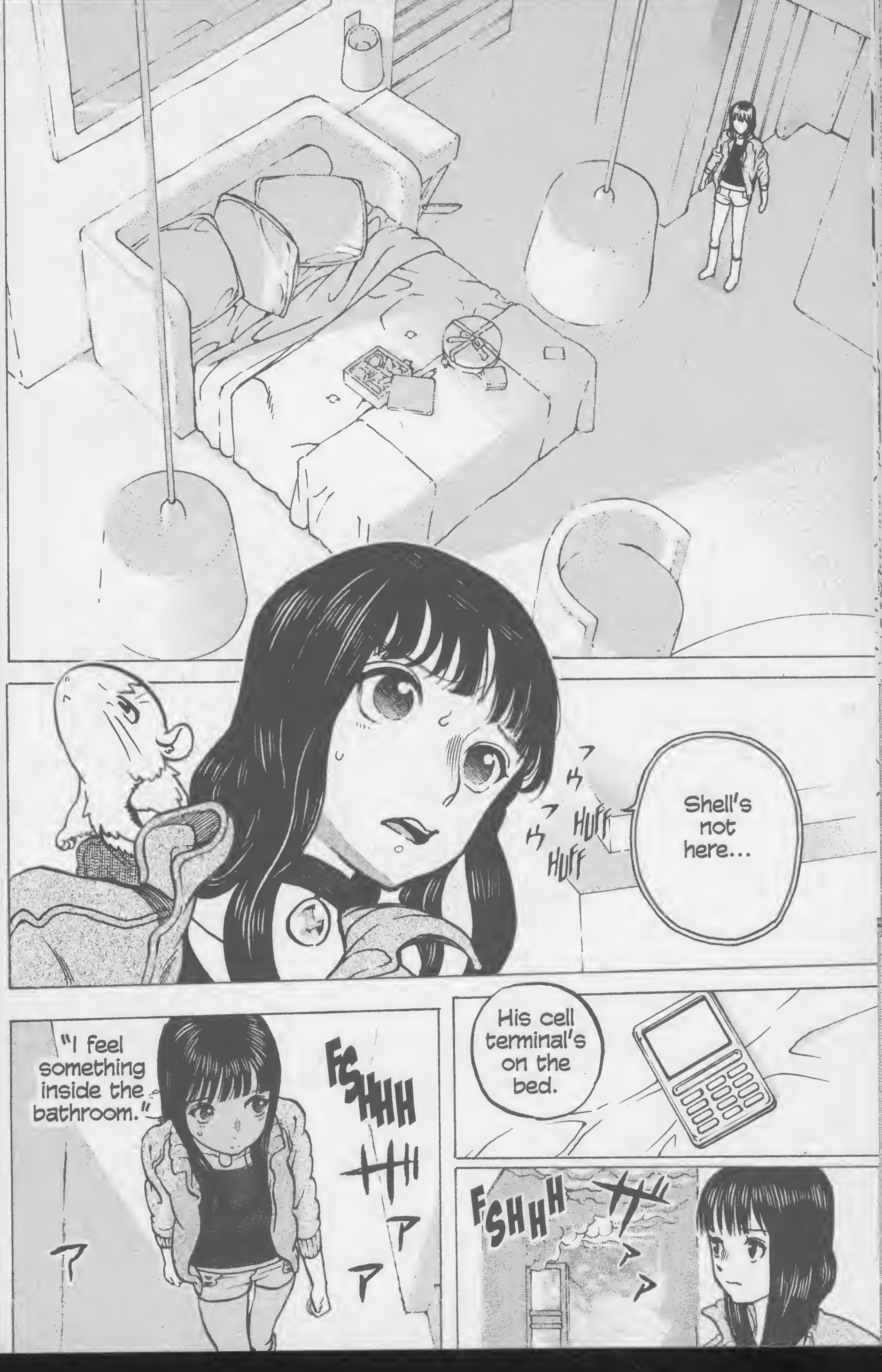

Well, Boiled?
BEEP BEEP
ツー ツー
Huh?
He hung up. Prick.
Aw, geez...
I don't wanna die or go into police custody...
Ha ha.
Ugh, my head aches.
Need a pill...
If I forget this, I won't be able to get away...
They're gone.
Octavia?
...

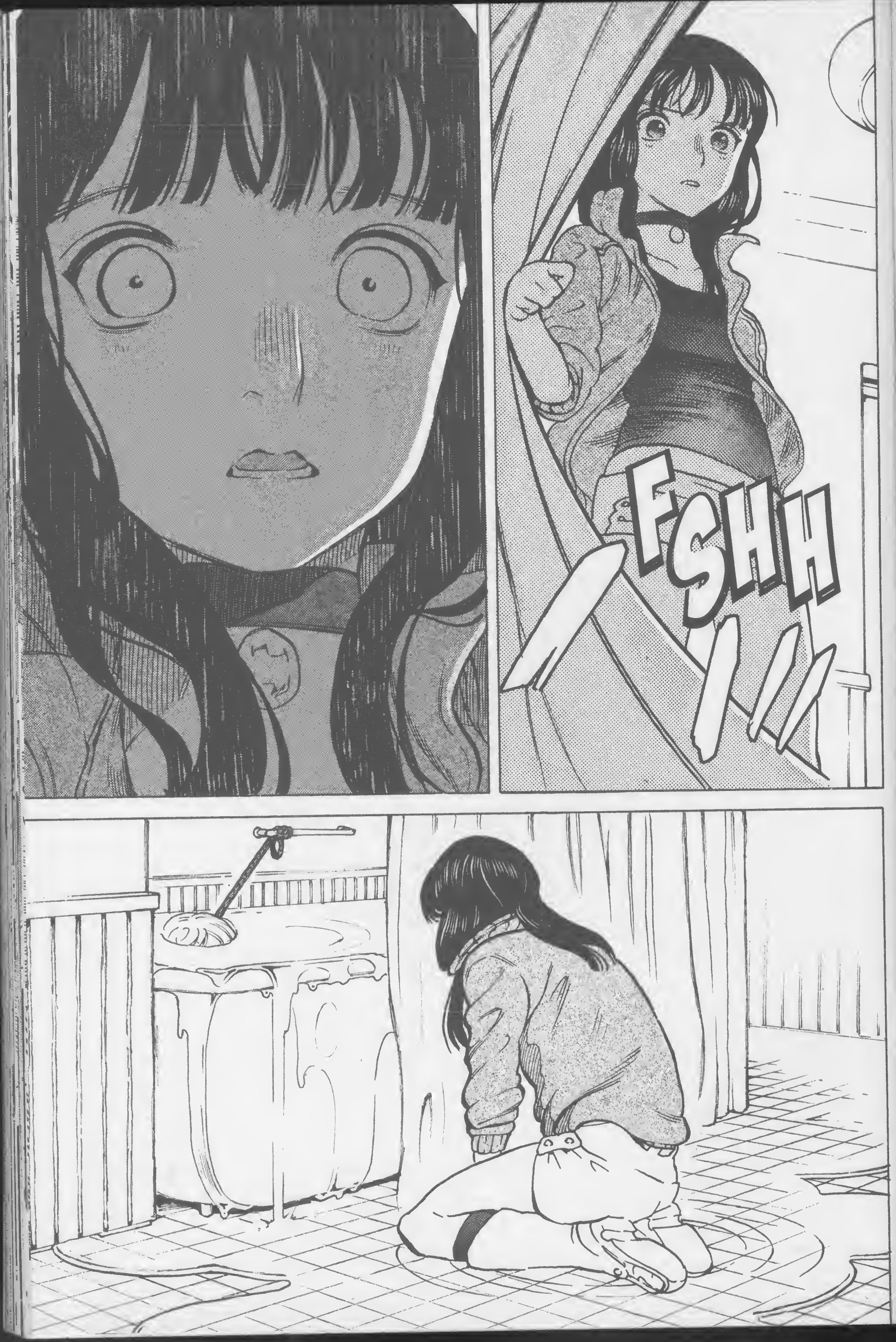

ザァ…
FSHHH…
heroic bill
ドドド
ポポポ
PLOP PLOP PLOP
heroic bill
heroic bill

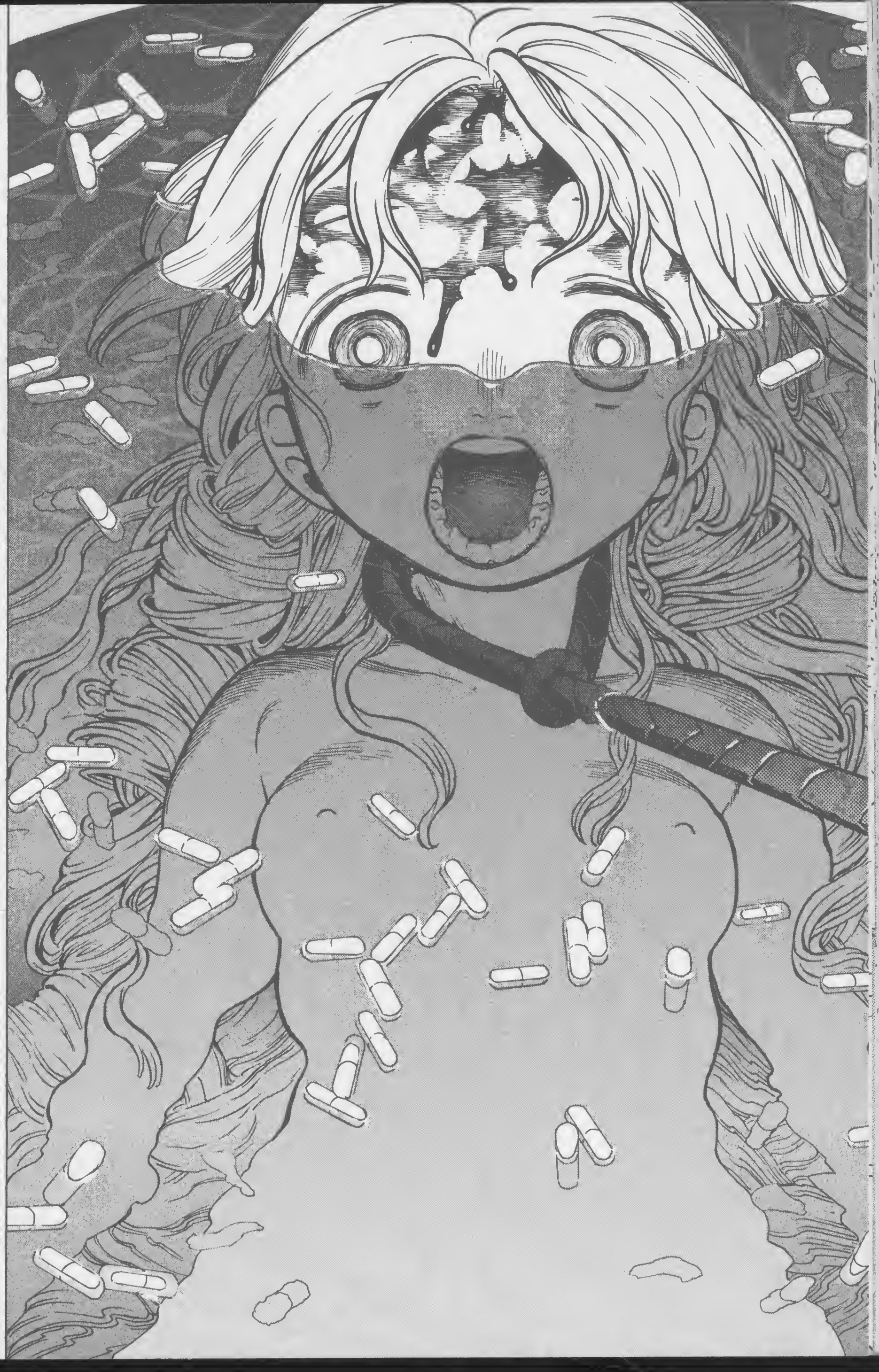

Oh, fantastic…
There go my treats…
Ahhhh!
Heh…
Sigh…
You've really done it this time, Octavia!
I've done it!
Hee-hee
All the treats are dead!
ポン
PAT
Very bad girl!
Kya ha ha!
Is this fun?
Yeah!
You're so damn cute.

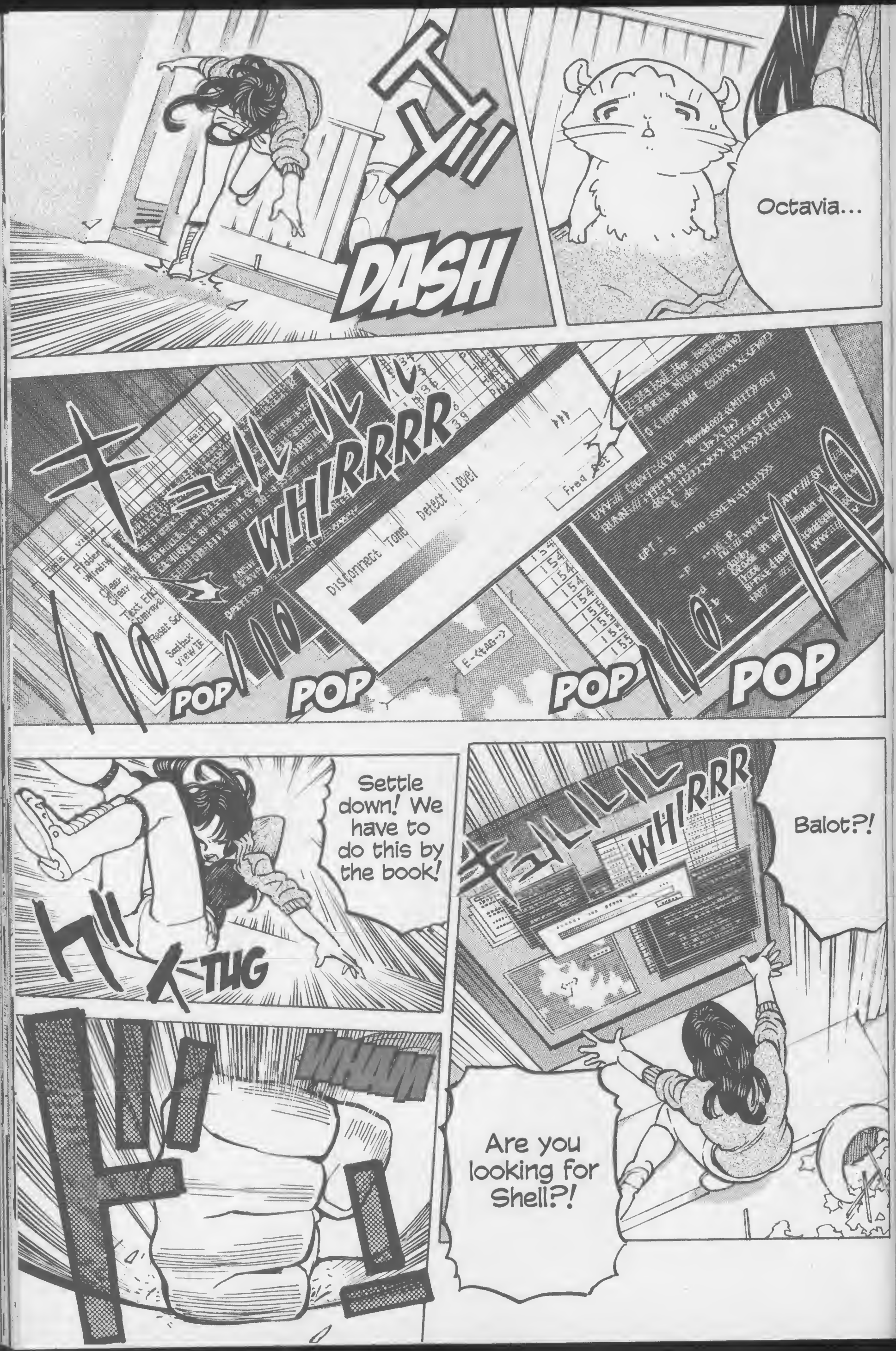

ドッシャ
GSHHK

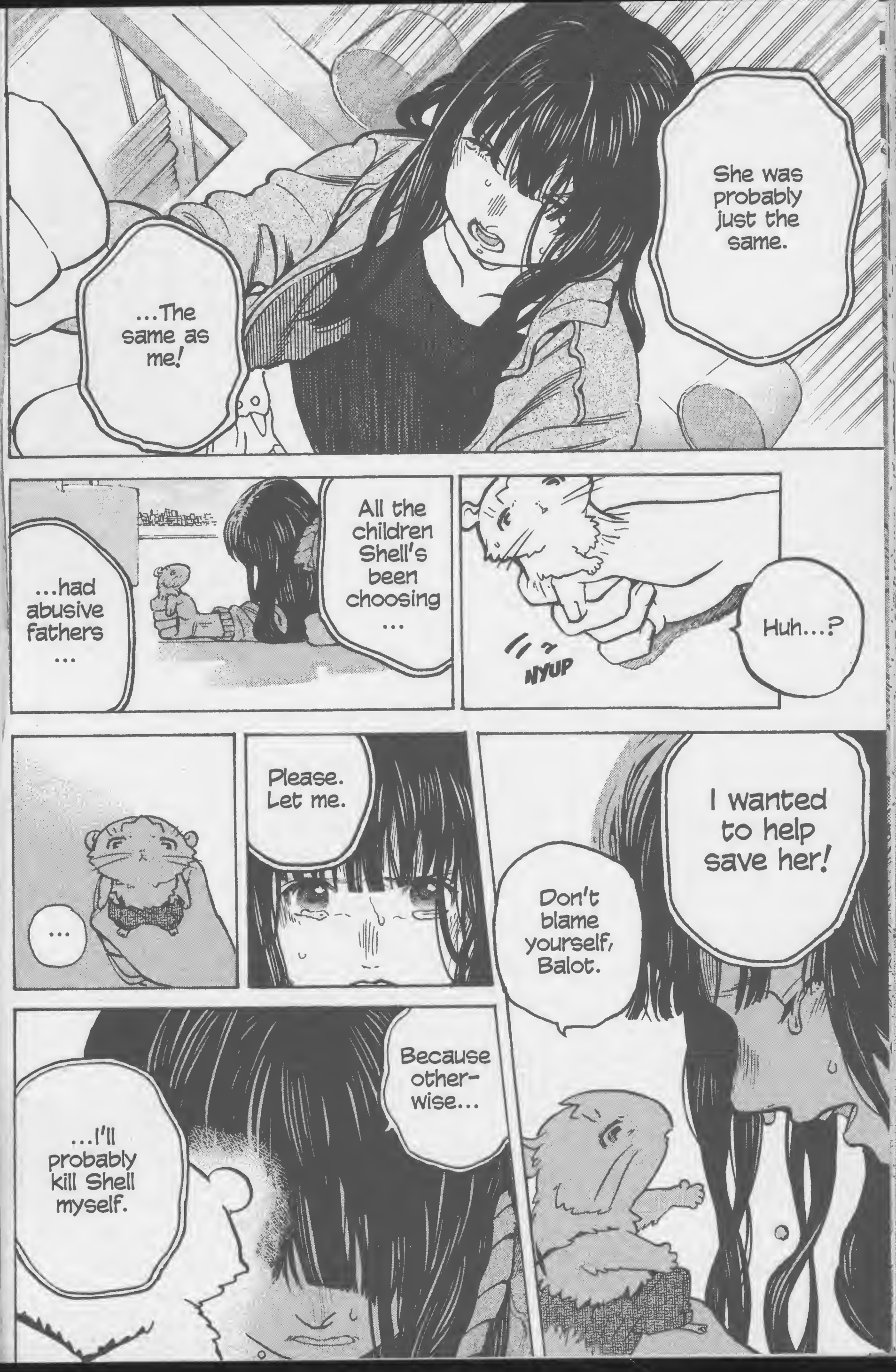

ゴポ
GLUB
ゴポ
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
ゴポ
ゴポ
サッ!パ
FWAAA
More fun than screwing your dad?
はあ
HFF
はあ
HFF
Go on, smile.
HFF
フウ
HFF
フウ
Mm...
Mmm...
Papa ...
Papa!

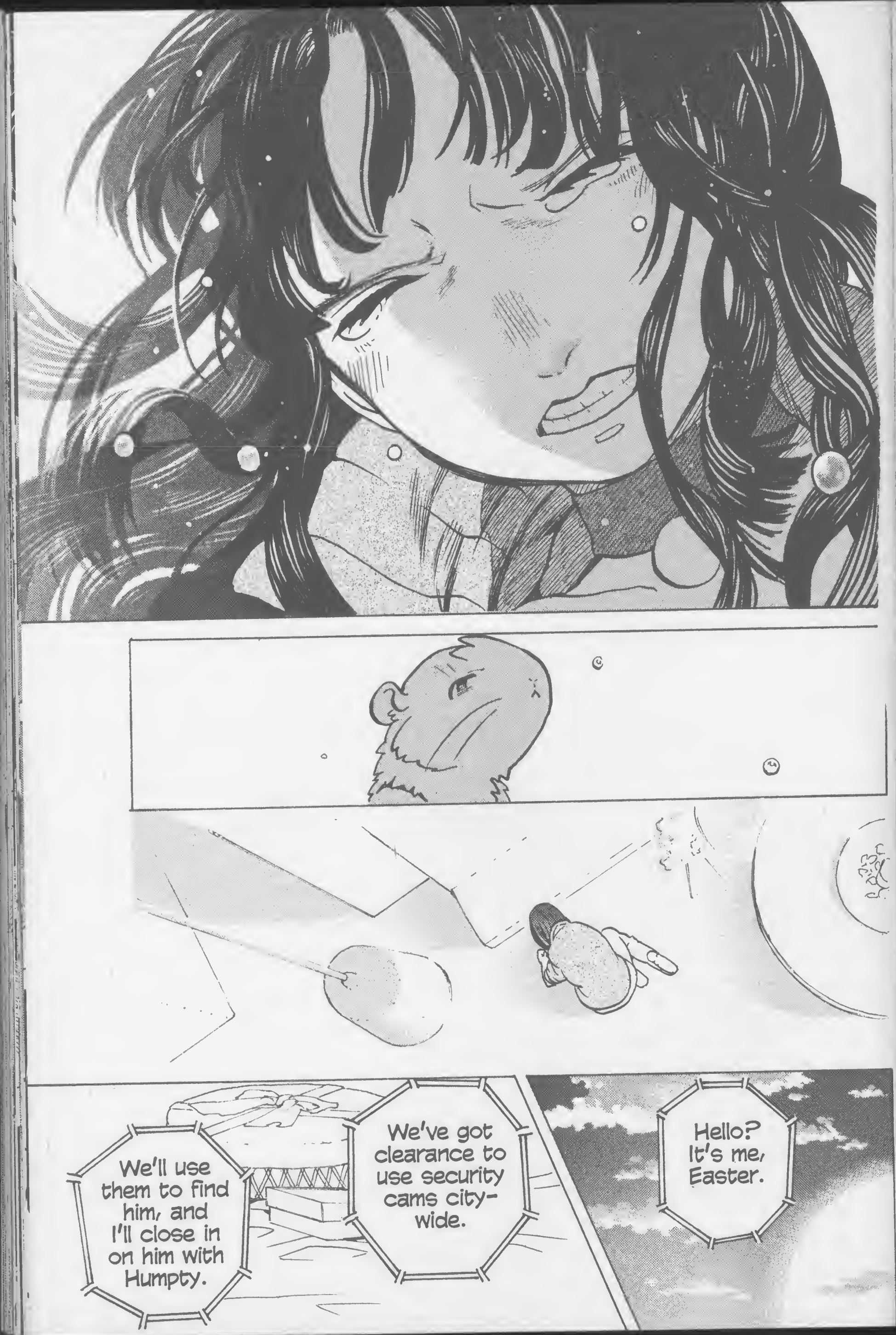

HUFF HUFF
Shell's not here...
His cell terminal's on the bed.
FSHHH
"I feel something inside the bathroom."
FSHHH

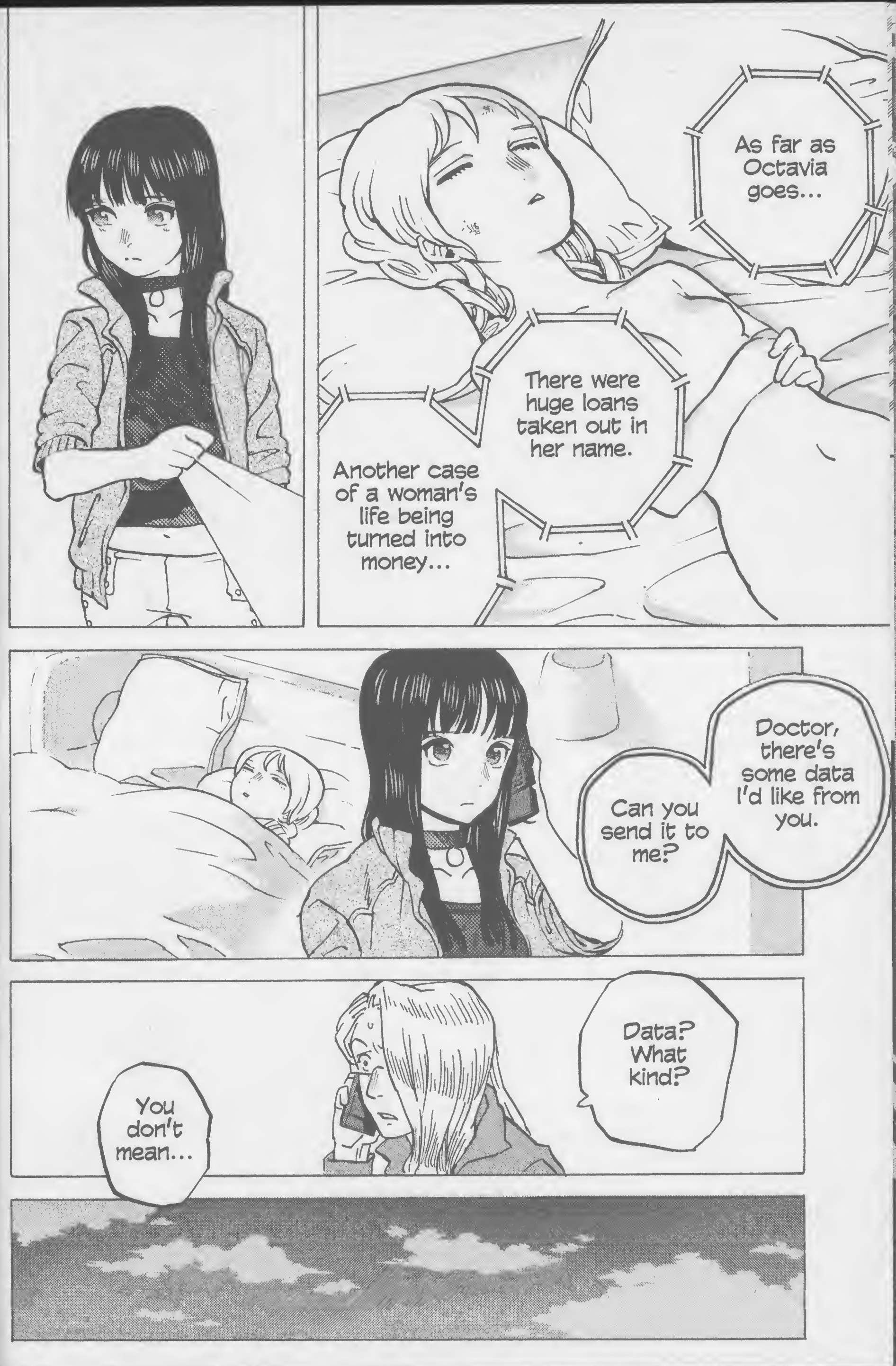

FSHH

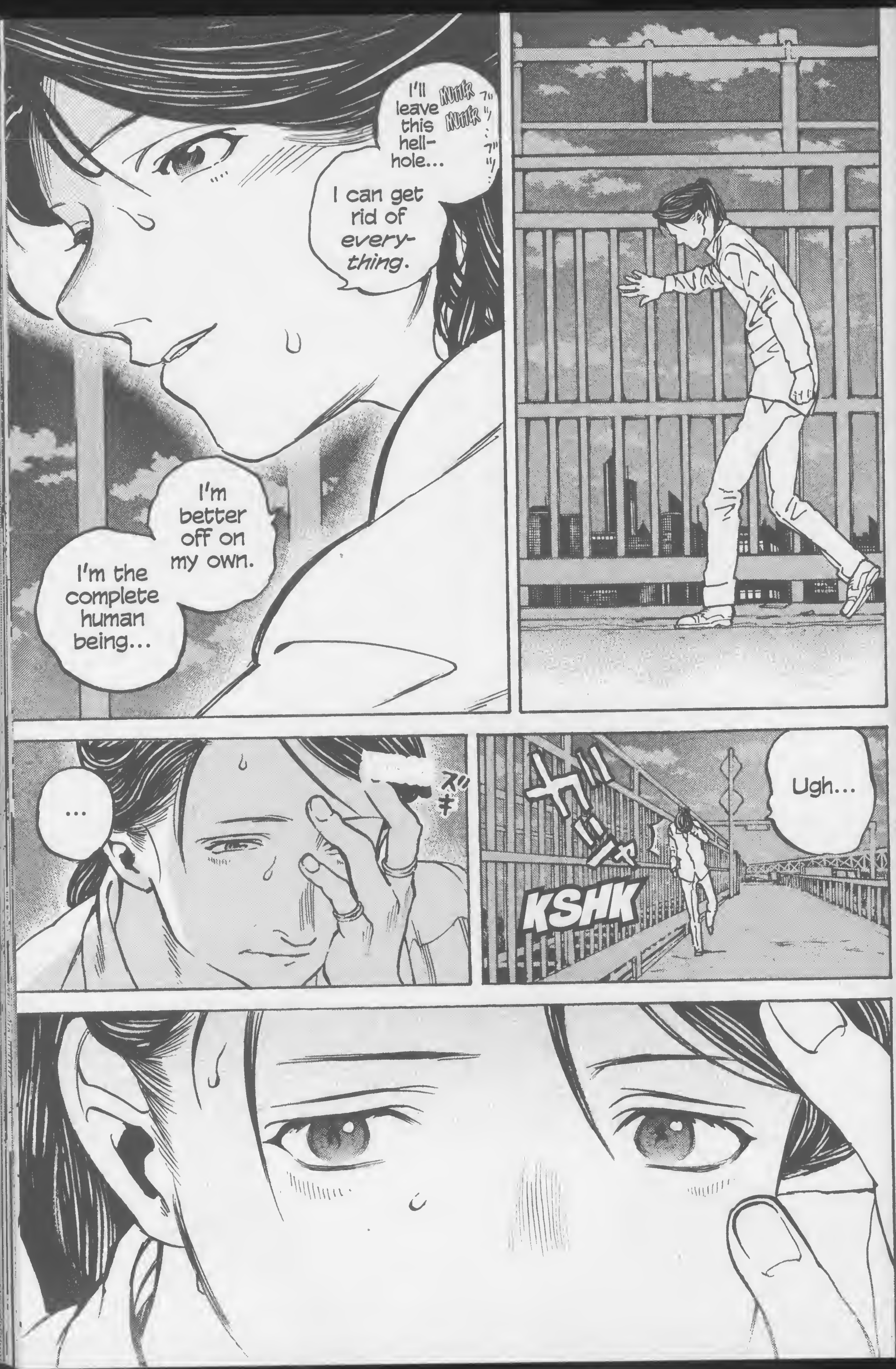


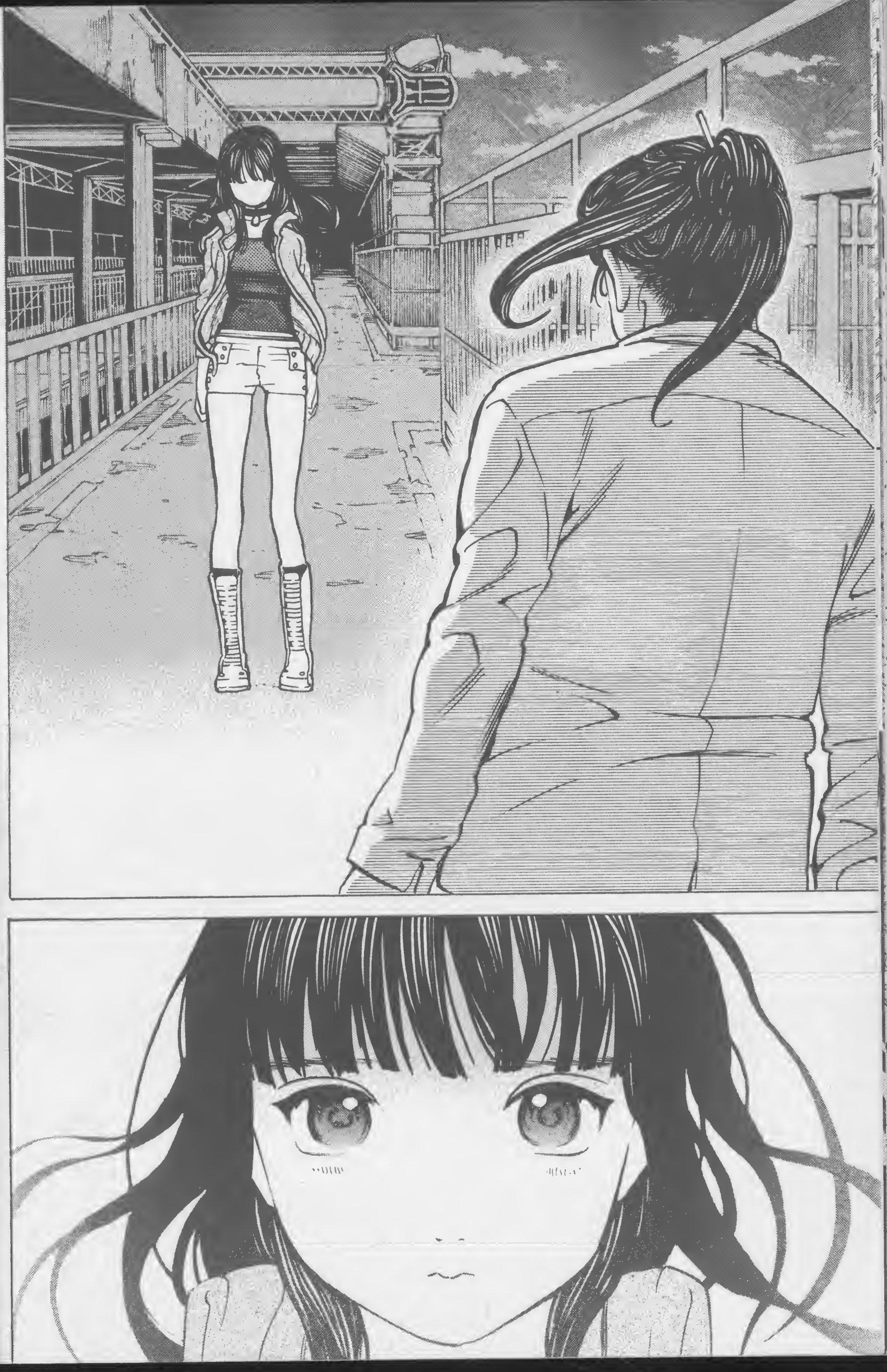

Octavia...
DASH
WHIRRRR
Disconnect
Tone
Detect
Level
Fred Set
POP
POP
POP
POP
WHIRRR
Balot?!
Are you looking for Shell?!
Settle down! We have to do this by the book!
TUG
WHAM

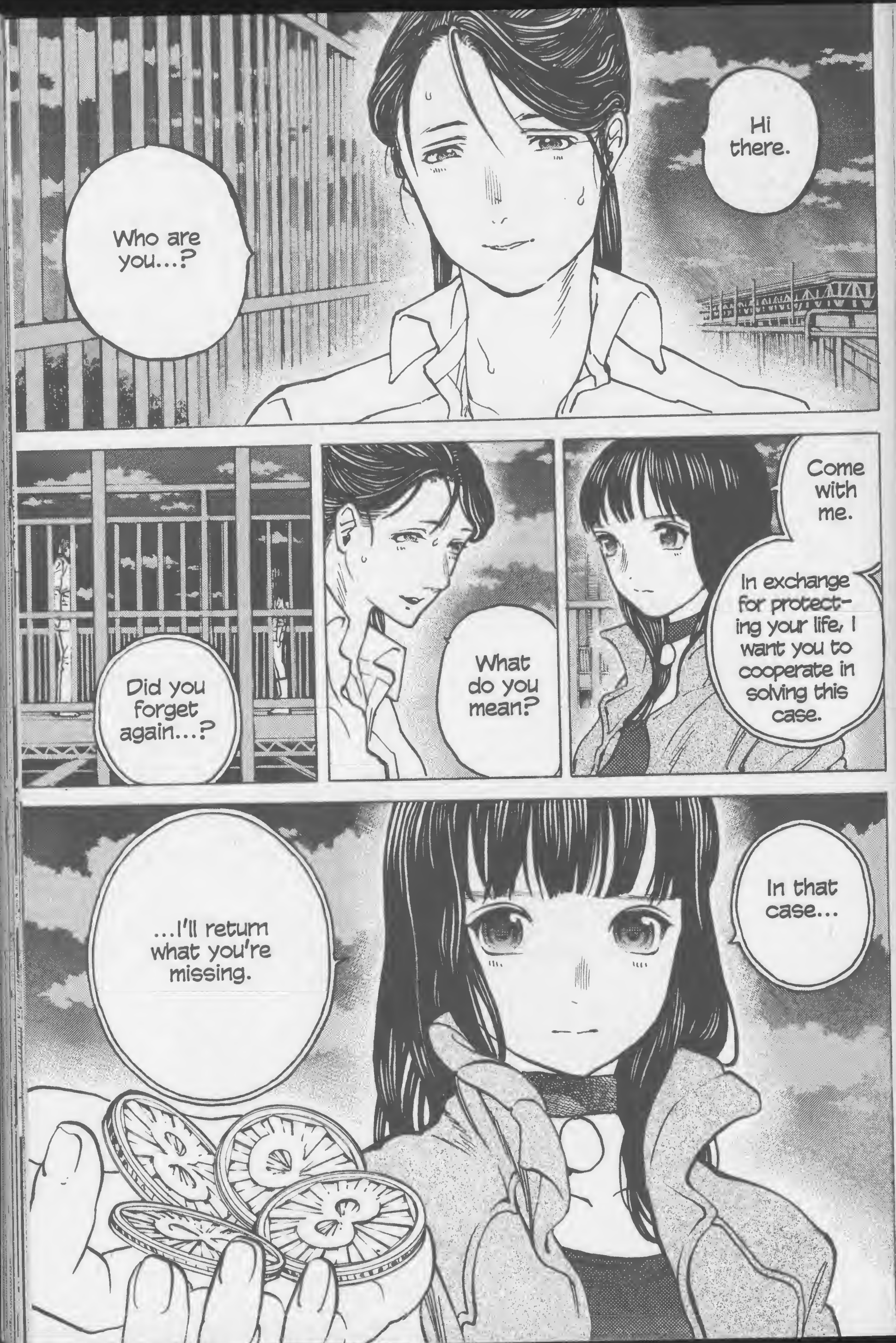

She was probably just the same.
...The same as me!
Huh...?
NYUP
All the children Shell's been choosing...
...had abusive fathers...
I wanted to help save her!
Don't blame yourself, Balot.
Please. Let me.
...
Because otherwise...
...I'll probably kill Shell myself.

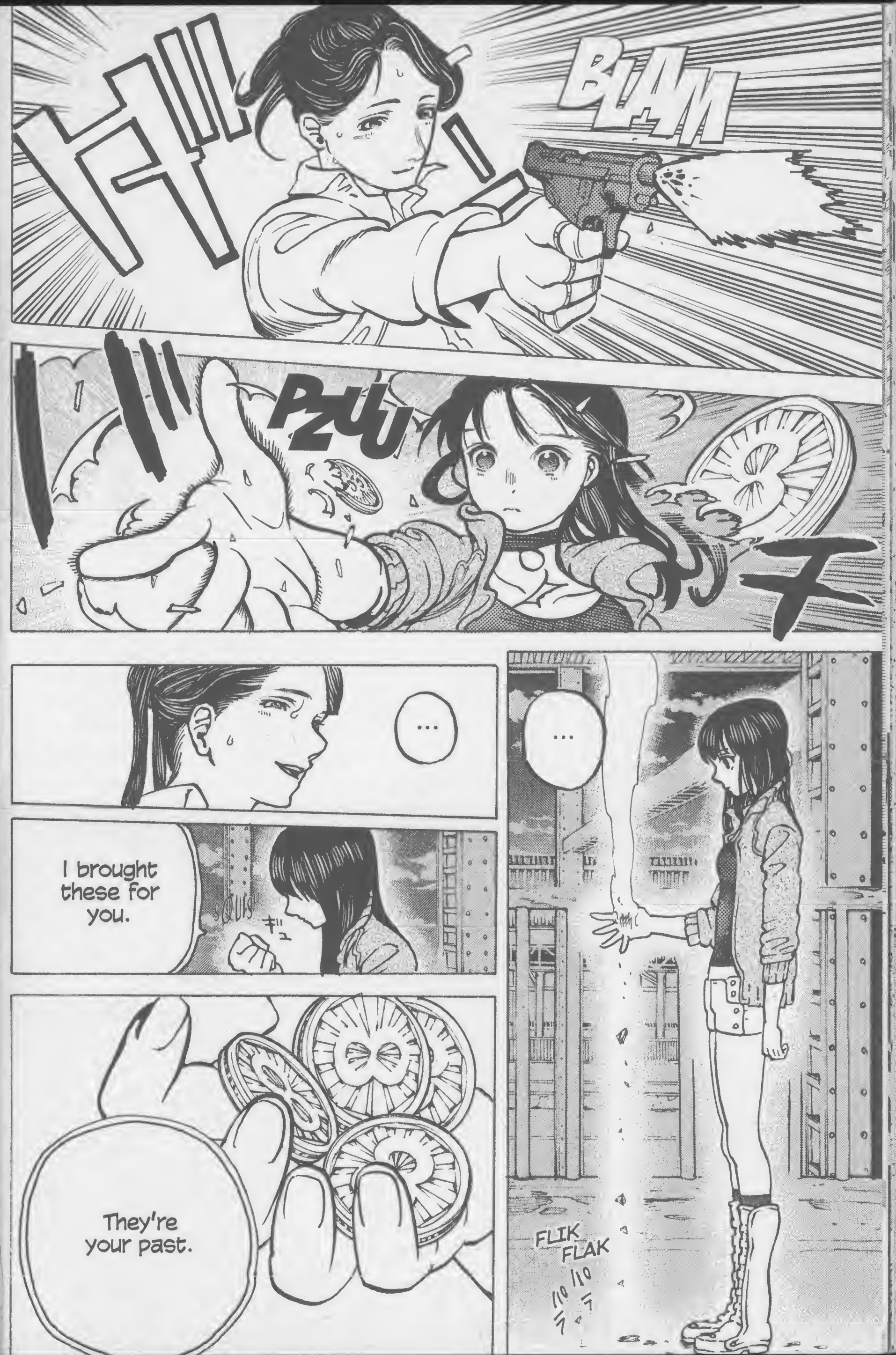

Hello? It's me, Easter.
We've got clearance to use security cams city-wide.
We'll use them to find him, and I'll close in on him with Humpty.

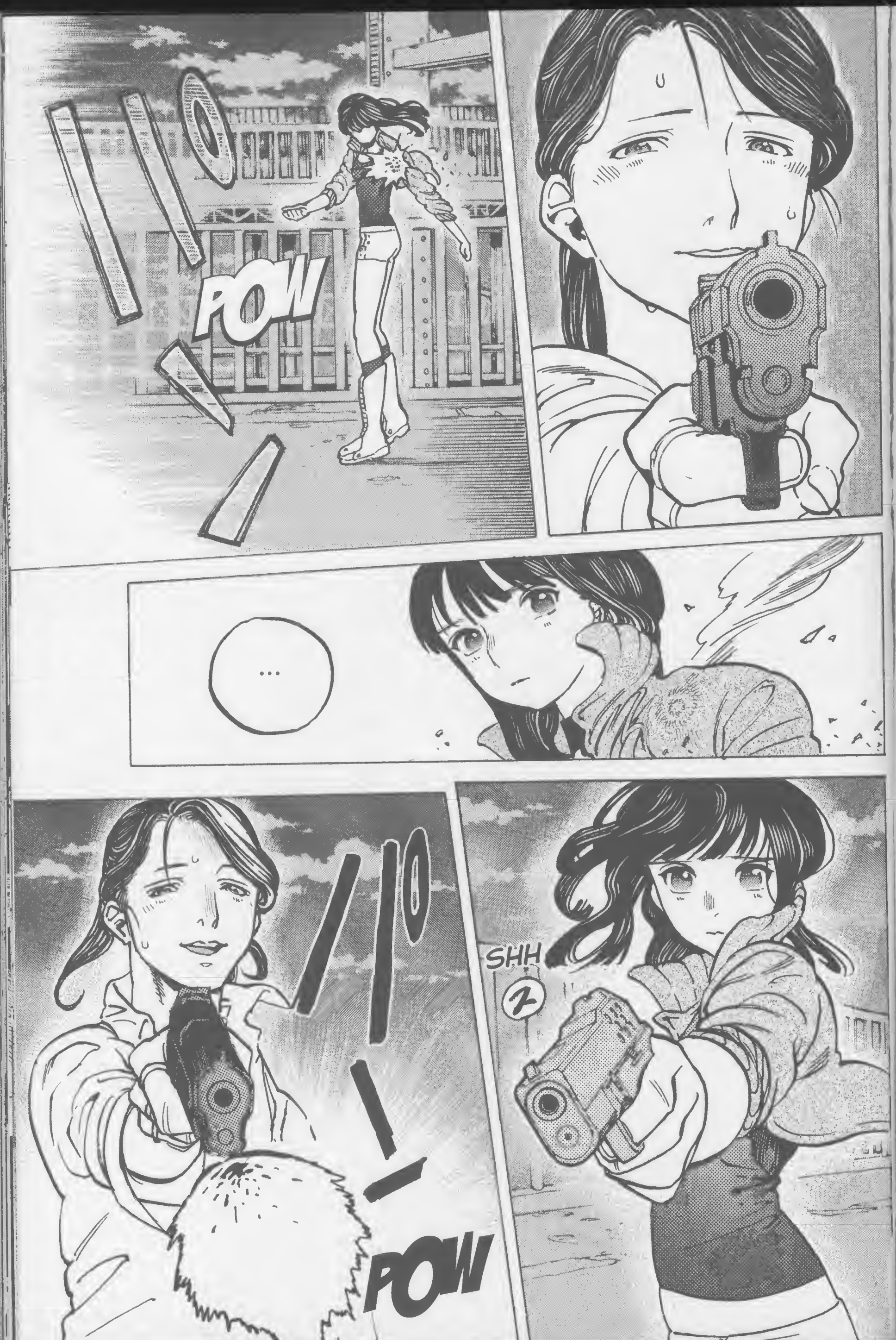

As far as Octavia goes...
There were huge loans taken out in her name.
Another case of a woman's life being turned into money...
Doctor, there's some data I'd like from you.
Can you send it to me?
Data? What kind?
You don't mean...

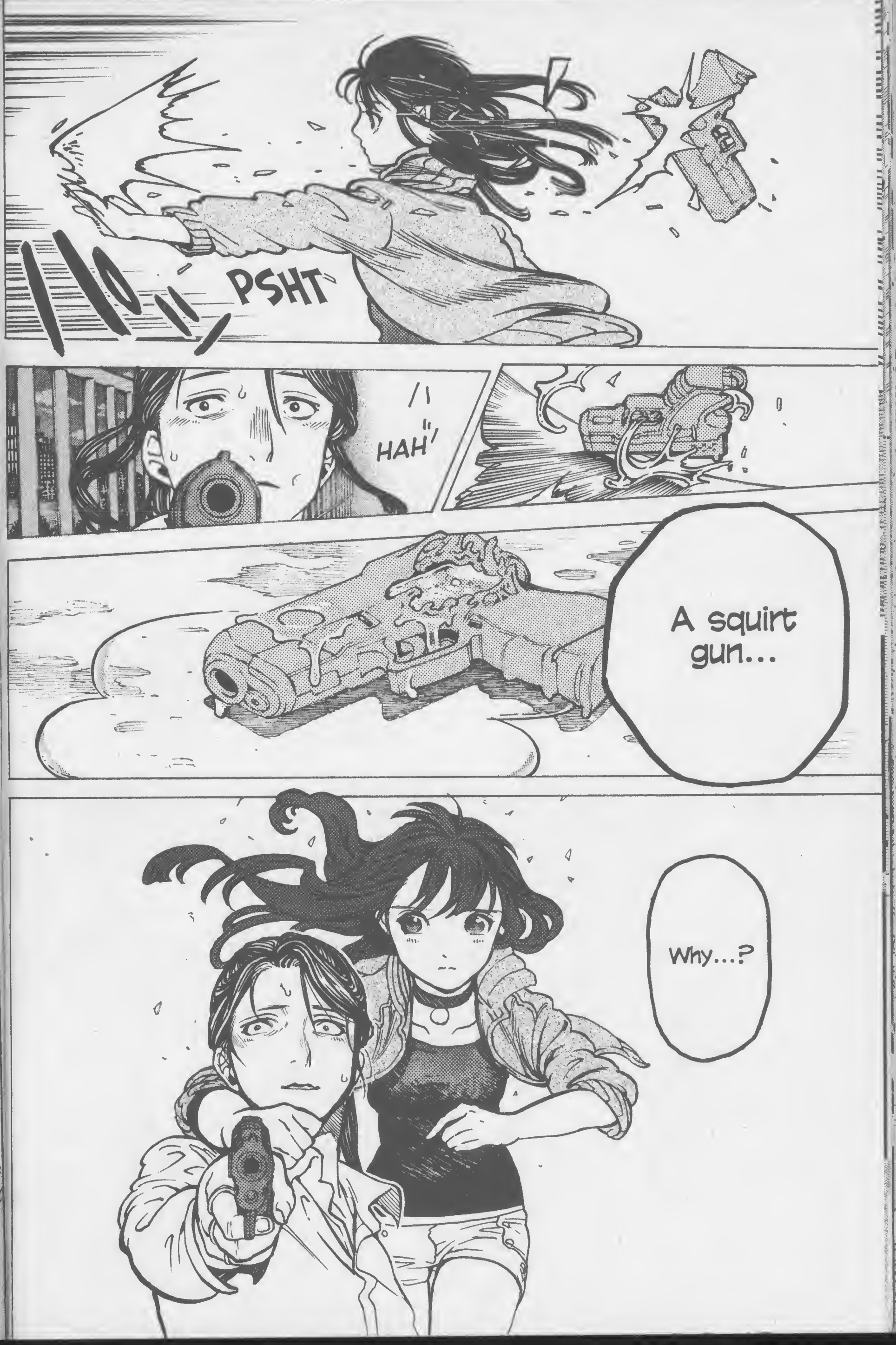

I'll leave this hell-hole...
MUTTR MUTTR
I can get rid of *everything*.
I'm better off on my own.
I'm the complete human being...
Ugh...
KSHK
...

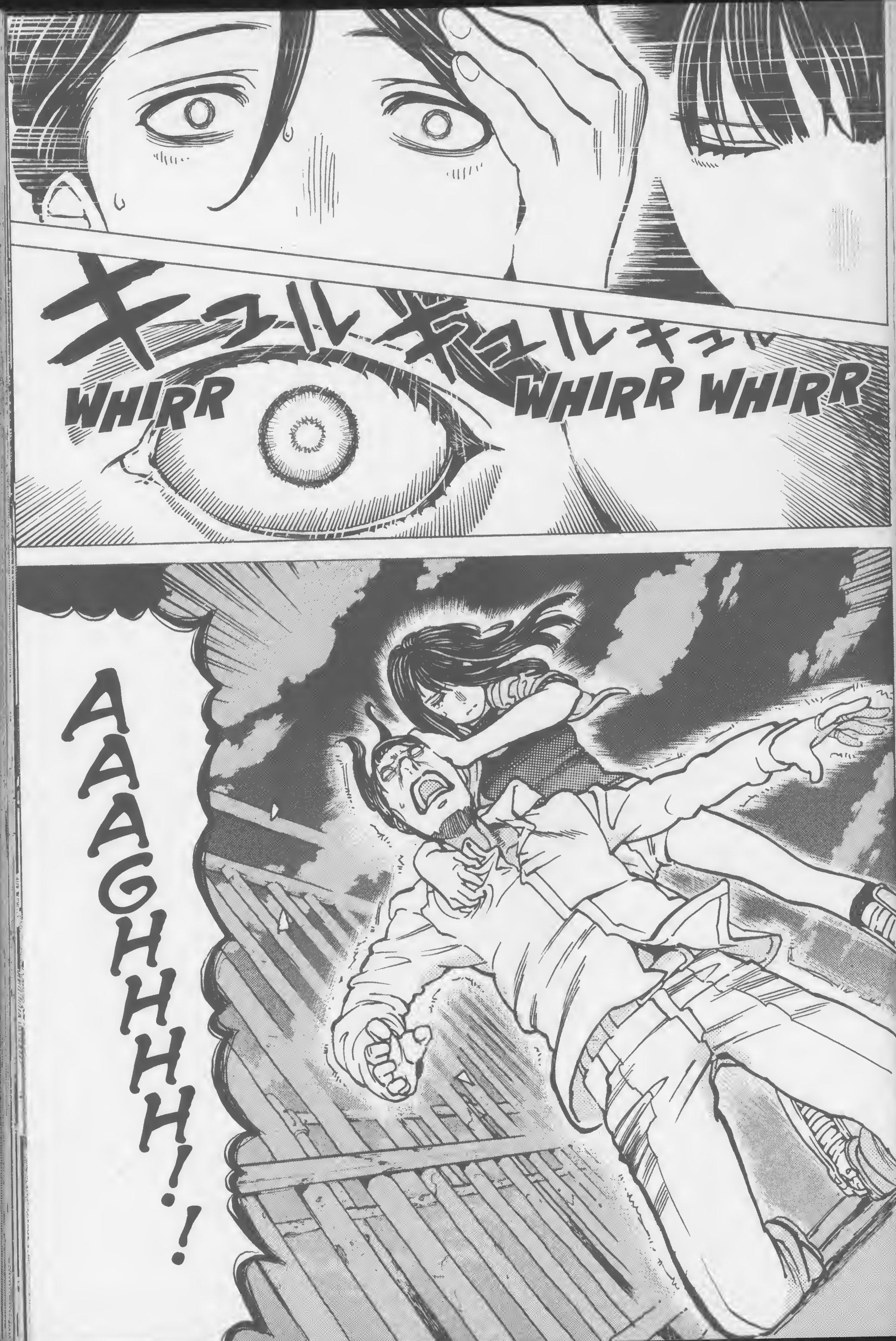


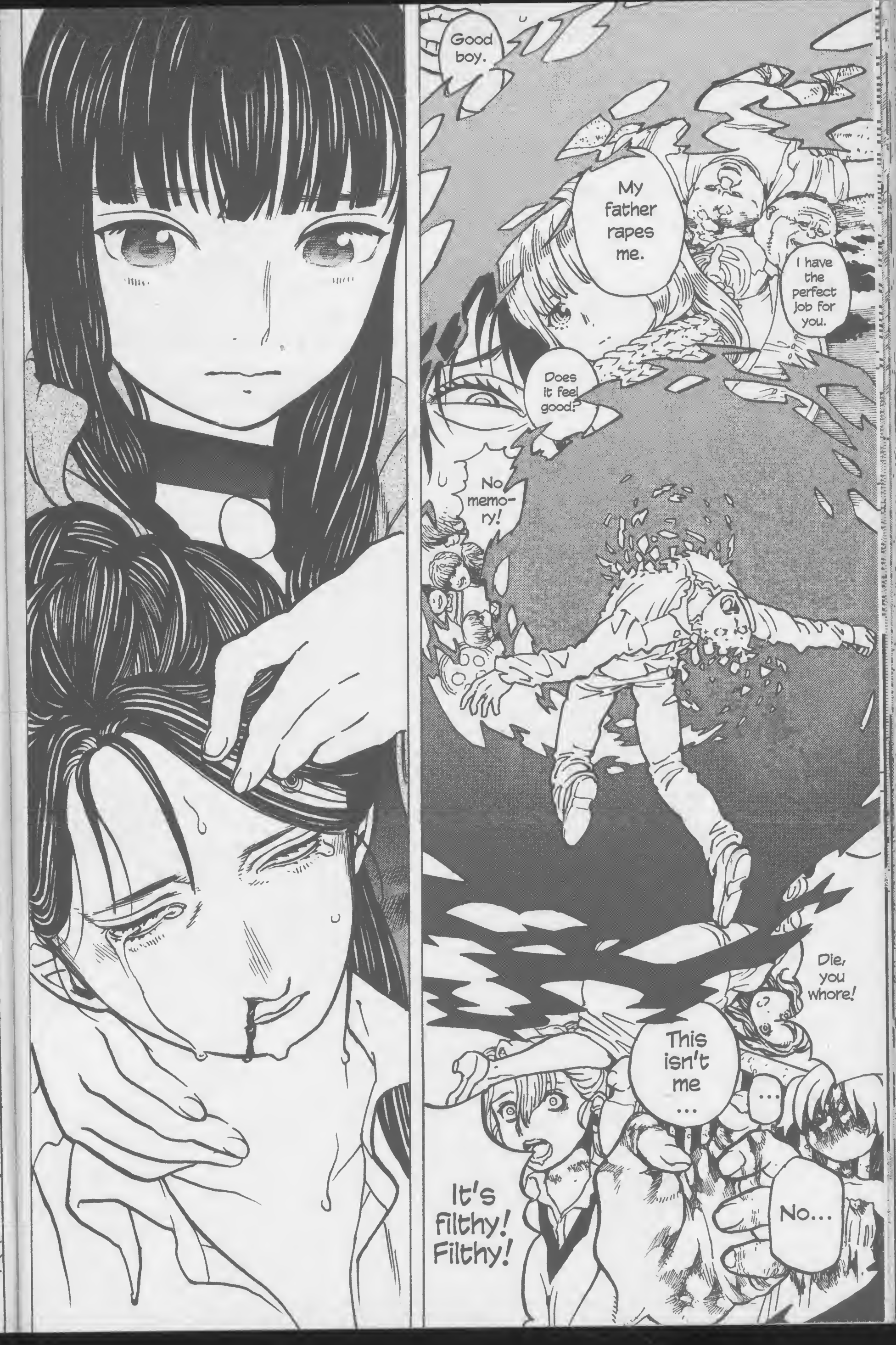

Hi there.
Who are you...?
Come with me.
In exchange for protecting your life, I want you to cooperate in solving this case.
What do you mean?
Did you forget again...?
In that case...
...I'll return what you're missing.

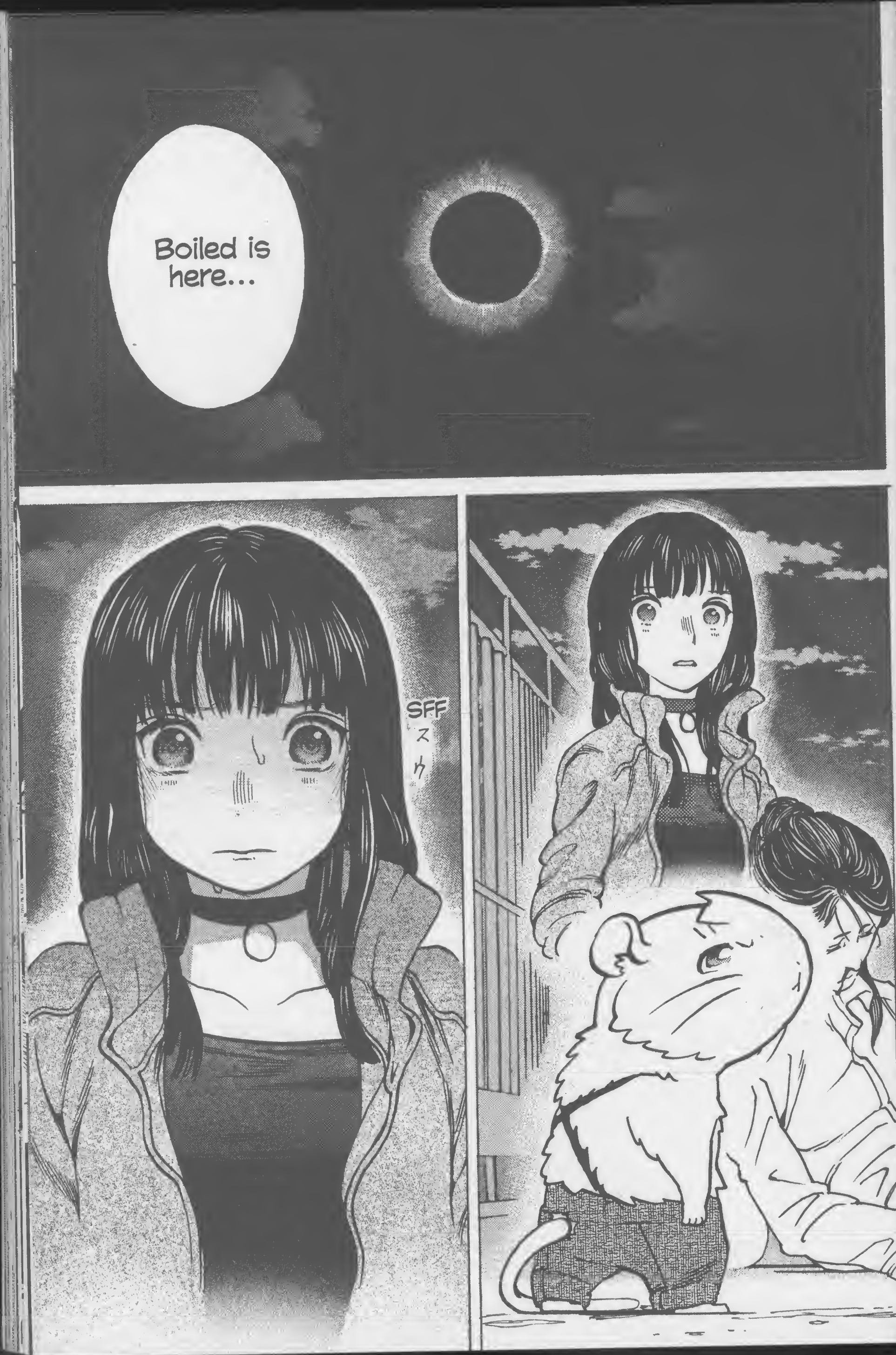

BLAM
PZUU
...
...
I brought these for you.
SQUISH
ギュ
They're your past.
FLIK FLAK

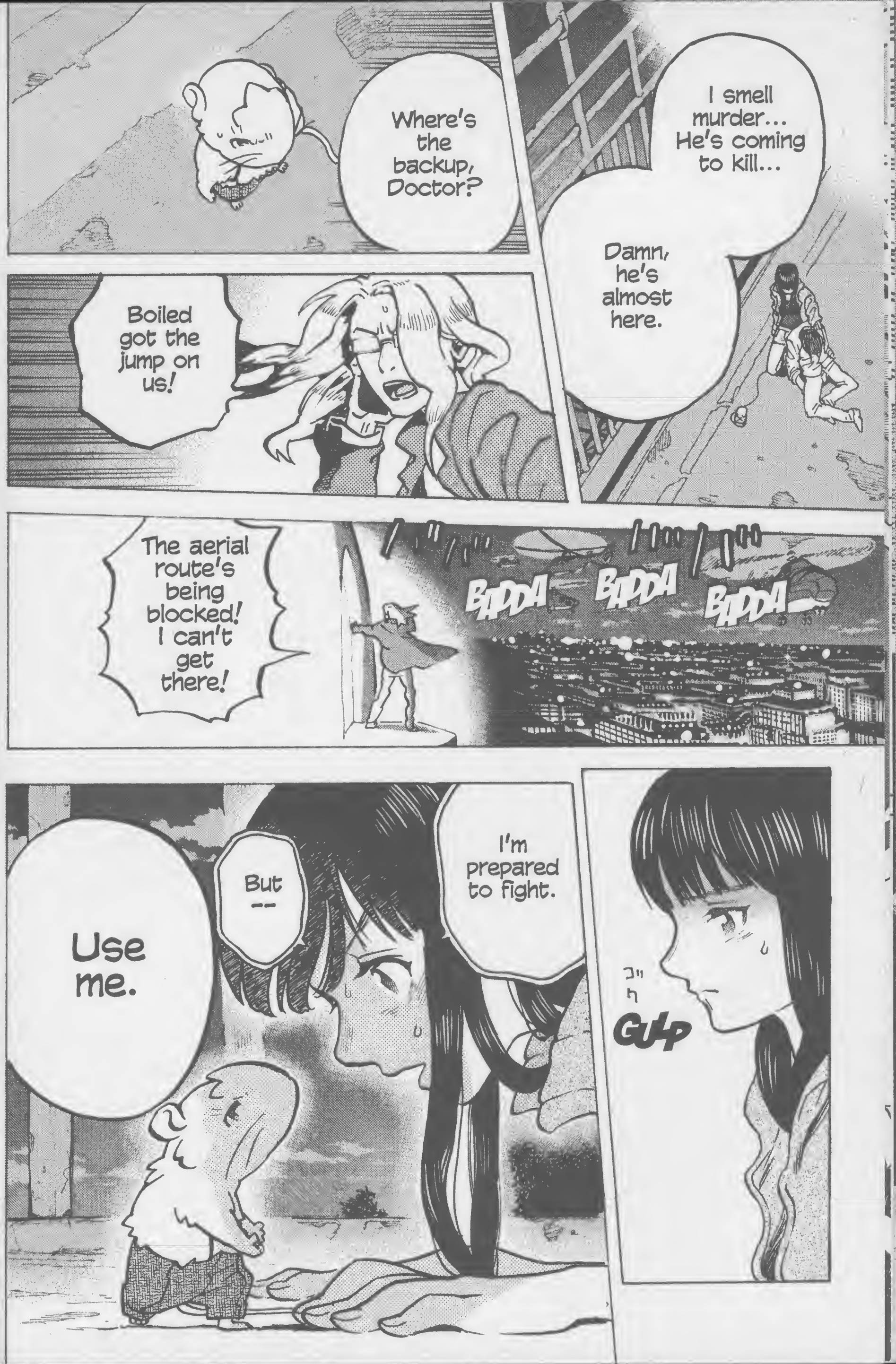

POW
...
SHH
POW

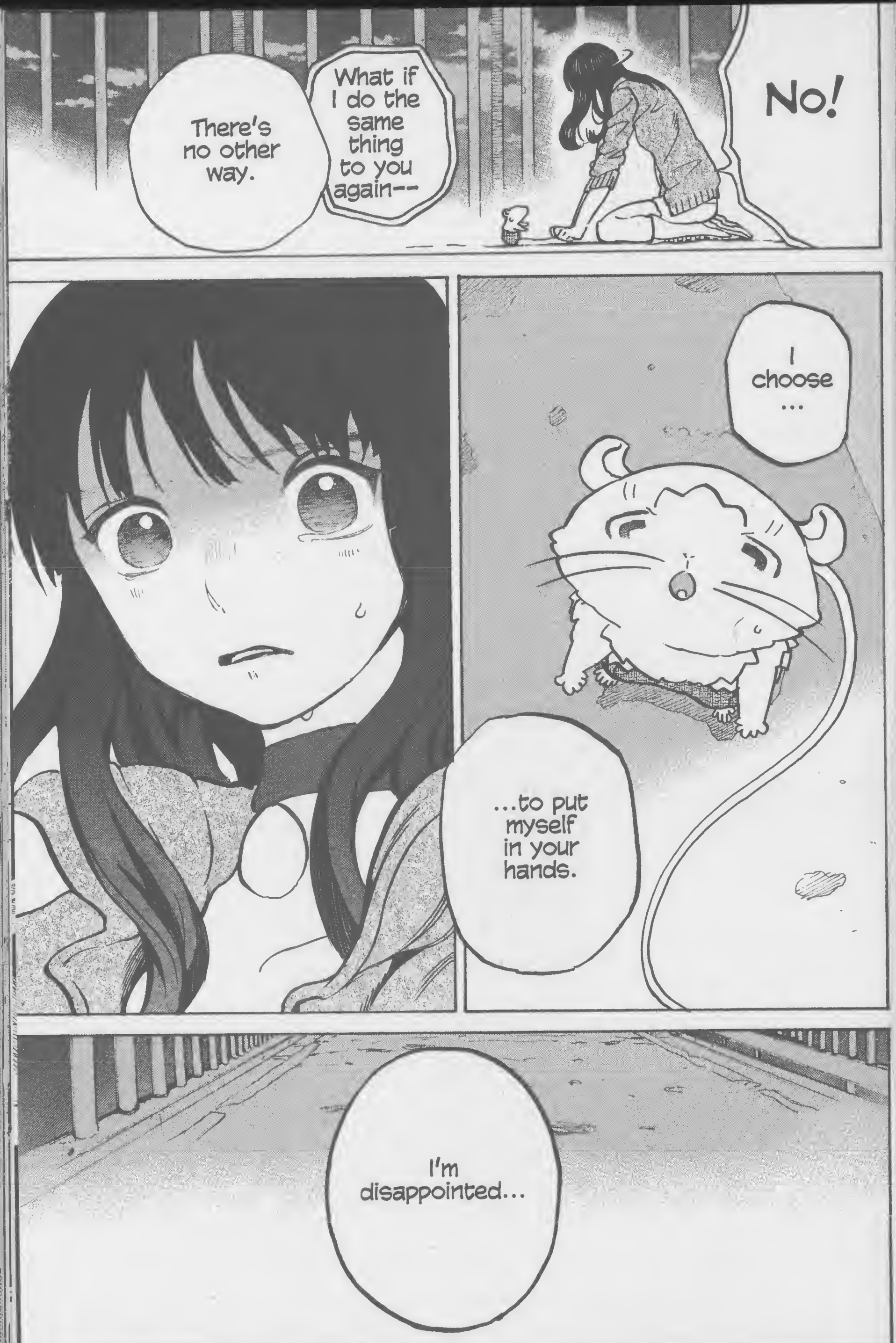

PSHT
HAH
A squirt gun...
Why...?

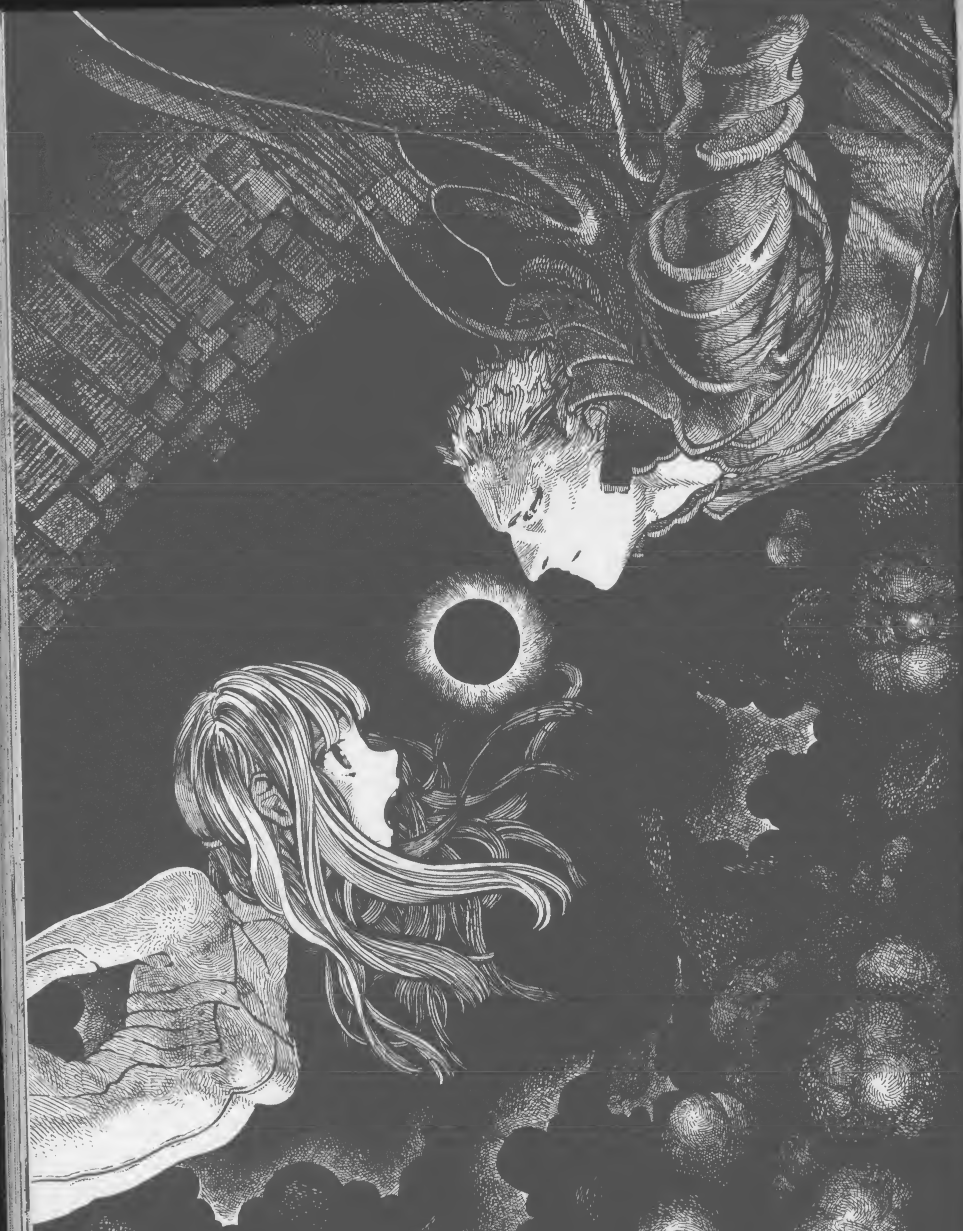

キュルキュルキュル
WHIRR
WHIRR WHIRR
AAAGHHHH!!


Good boy.
I have the perfect job for you.
My father rapes me.
Does it feel good?
No memory!
Die, you whore!
This isn't me...
...
No...
It's filthy! Filthy!


Boiled is here...
SFF
スッ

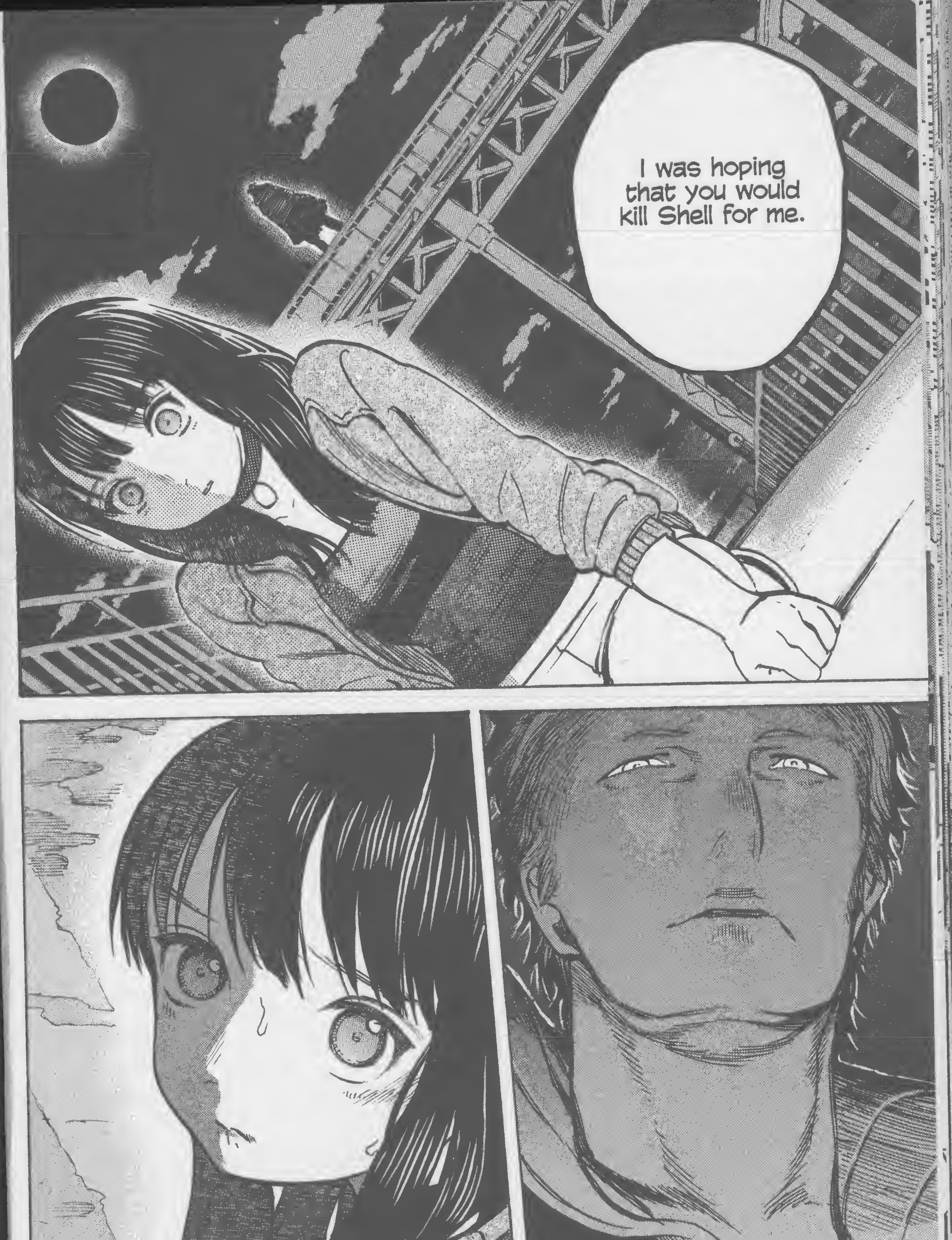

I smell murder... He's coming to kill...
Where's the backup, Doctor?
Damn, he's almost here.
Boiled got the jump on us!
The aerial route's being blocked! I can't get there!
BADDA
BADDA
BADDA
ゴク
GULP
I'm prepared to fight.
But --
Use me.

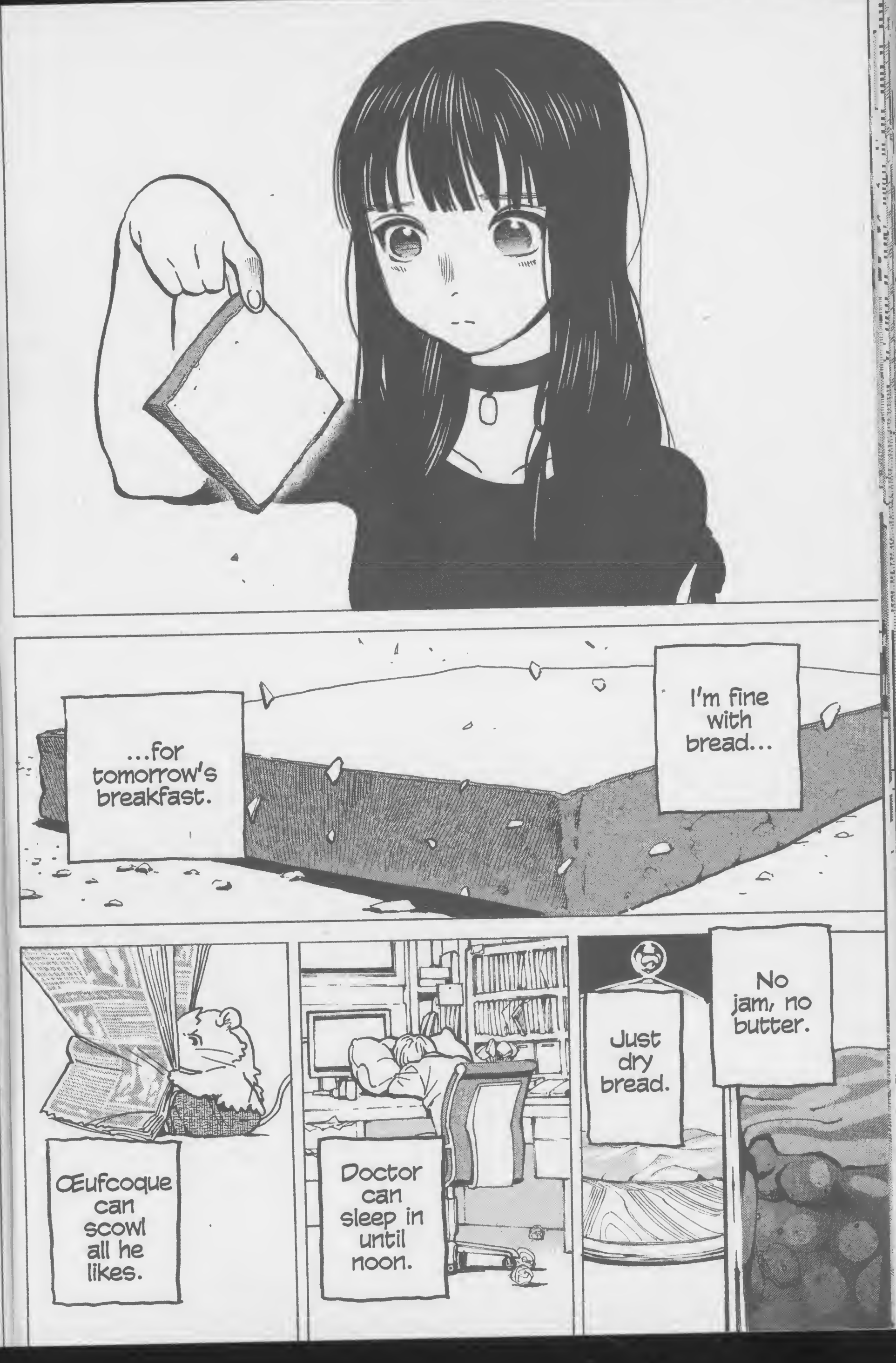

No!
What if I do the same thing to you again--
There's no other way.
I choose...
...to put myself in your hands.
I'm disappointed...

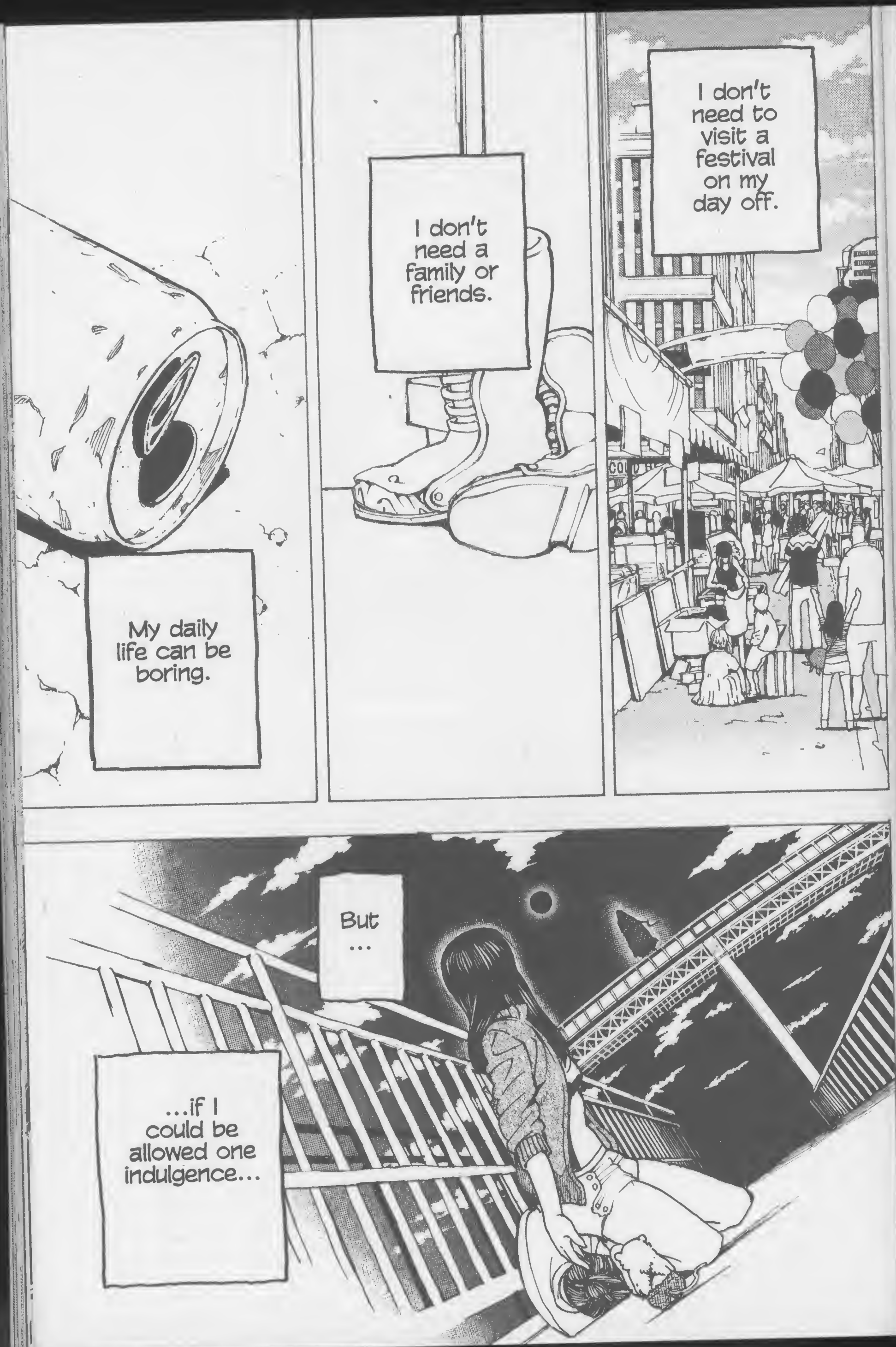


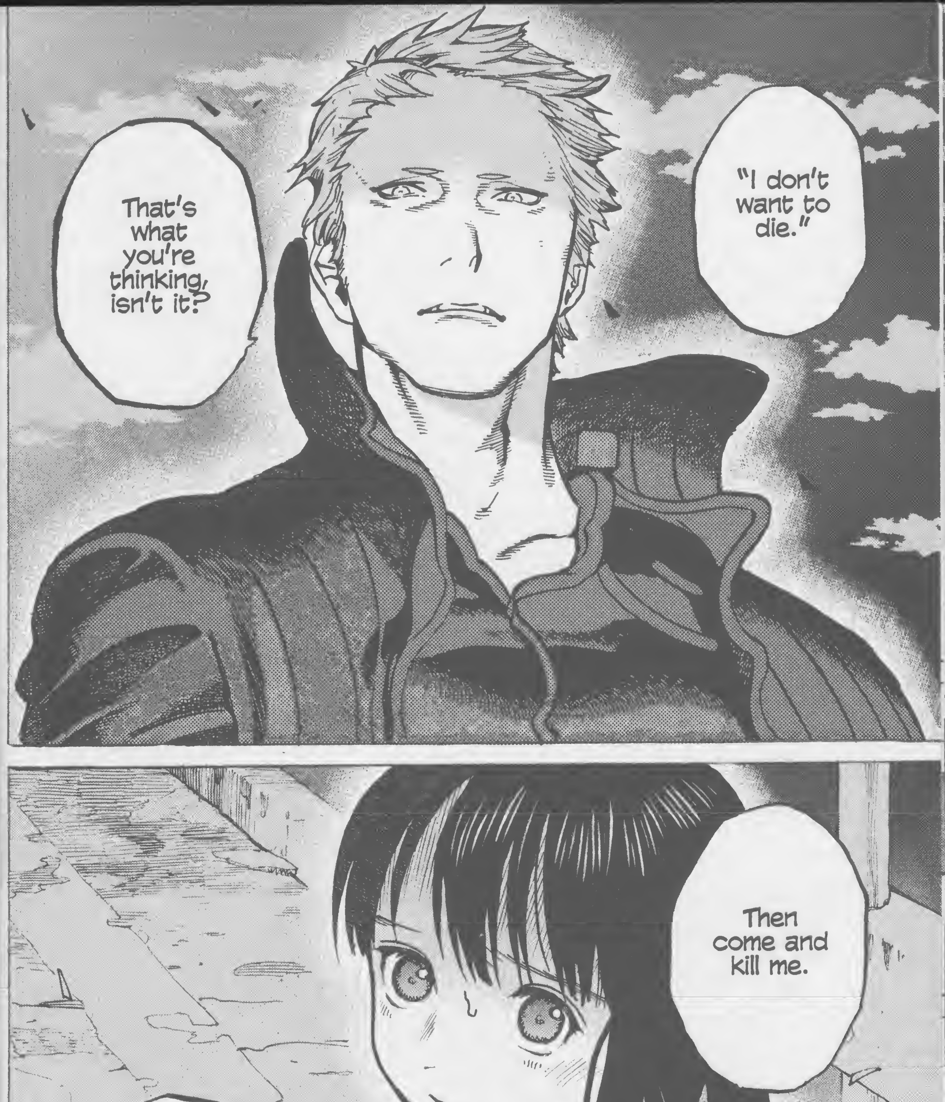
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

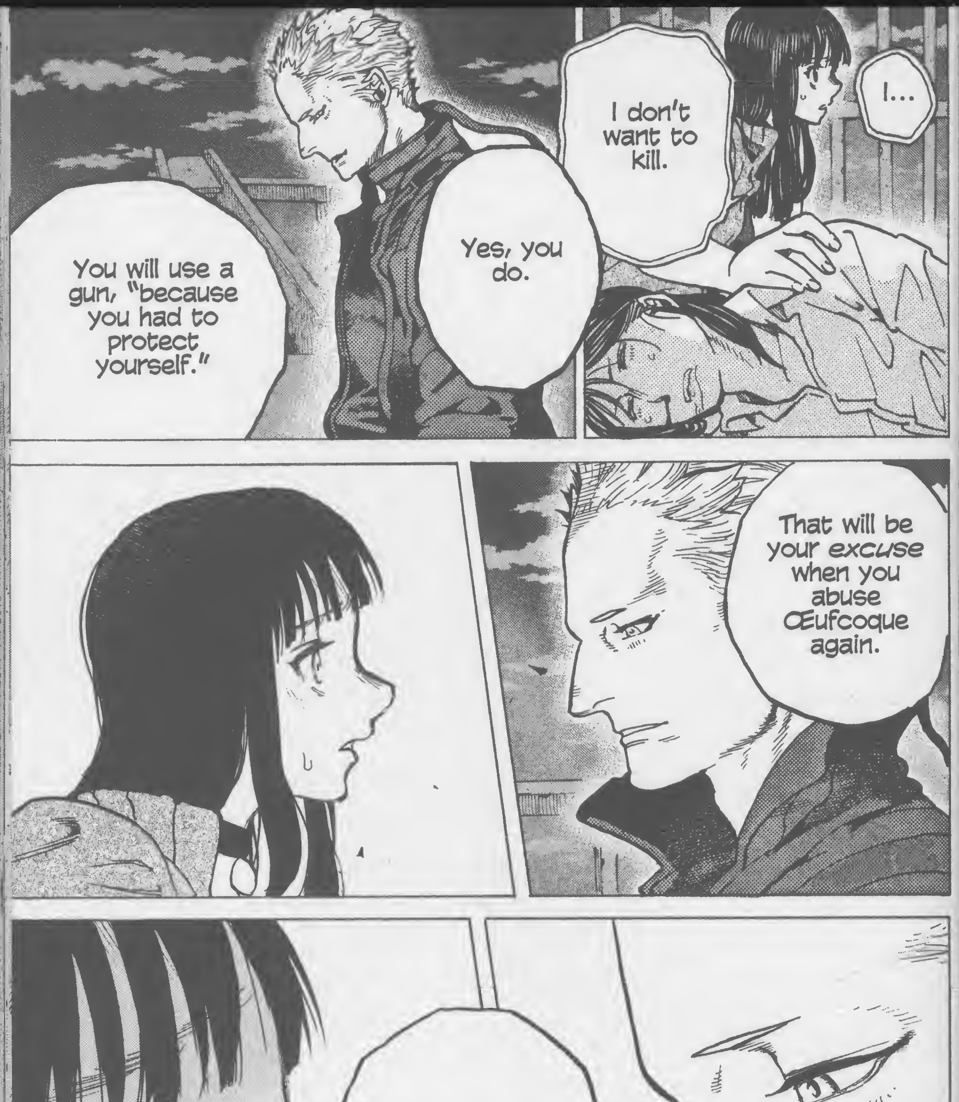
Chapter 31: Navigation (3)

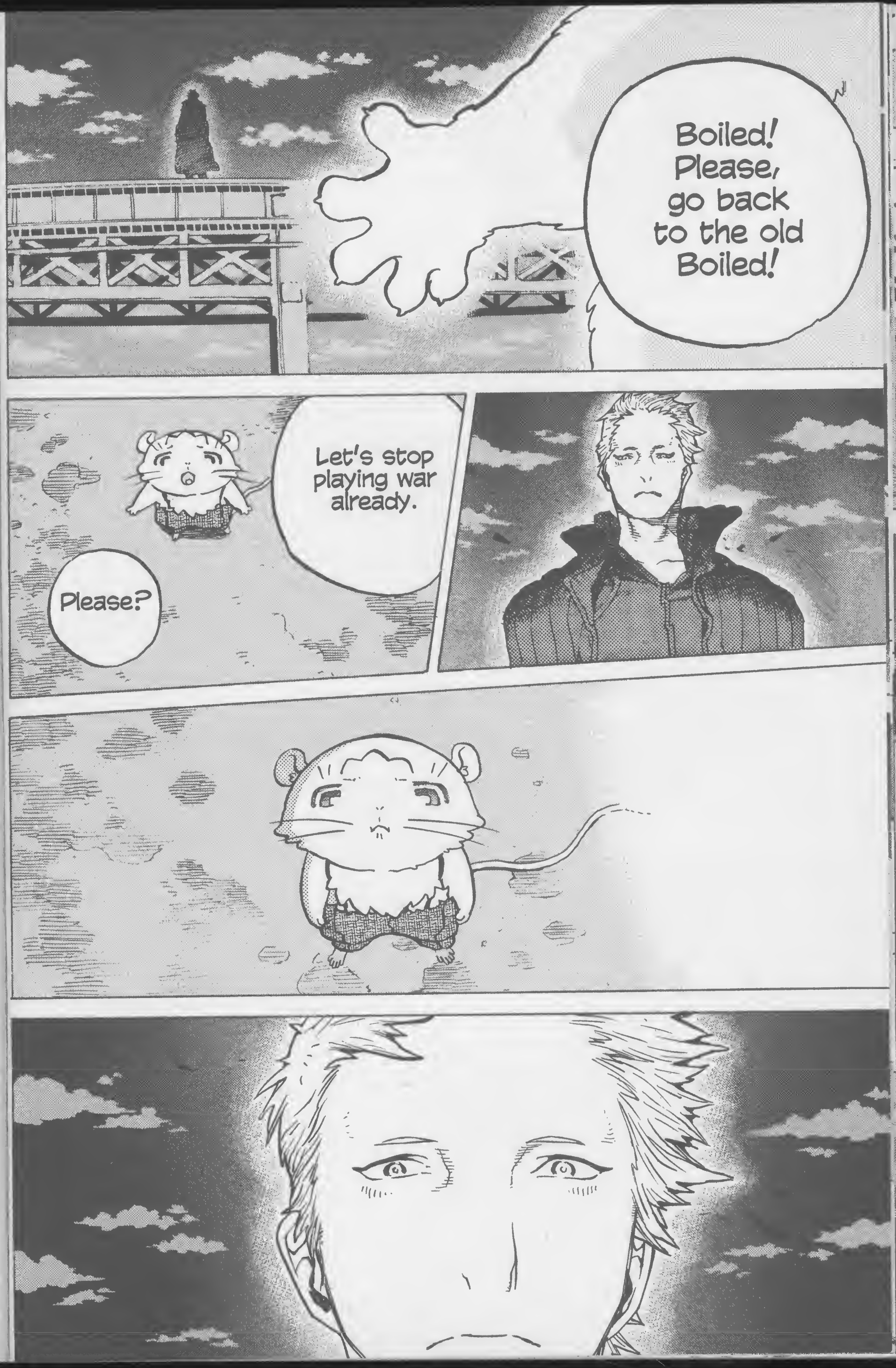

I was hoping that you would kill Shell for me.

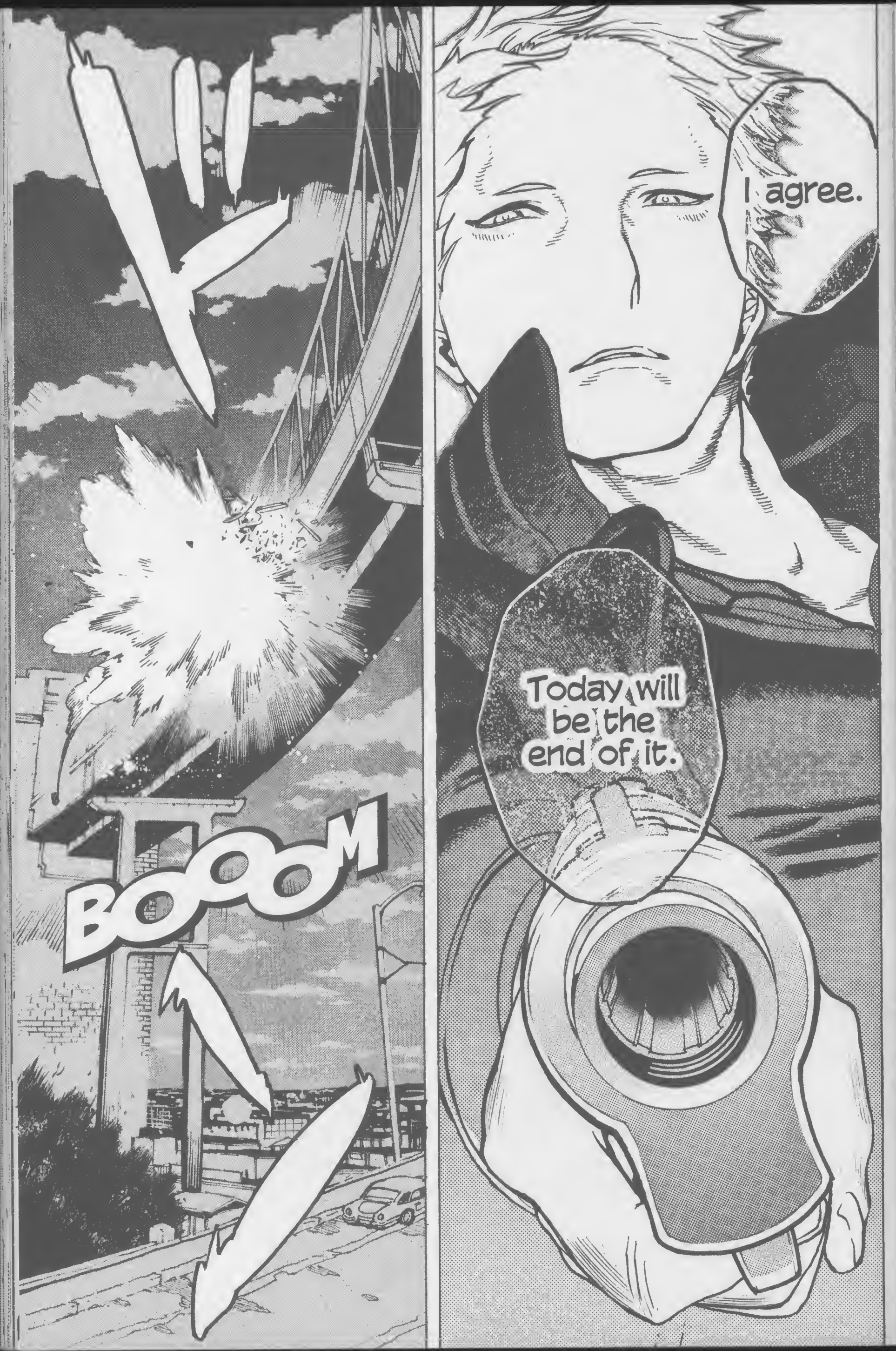

I'm fine with bread...
...for tomorrow's breakfast.
No jam, no butter.
Just dry bread.
Doctor can sleep in until noon.
Œufcoque can scowl all he likes.

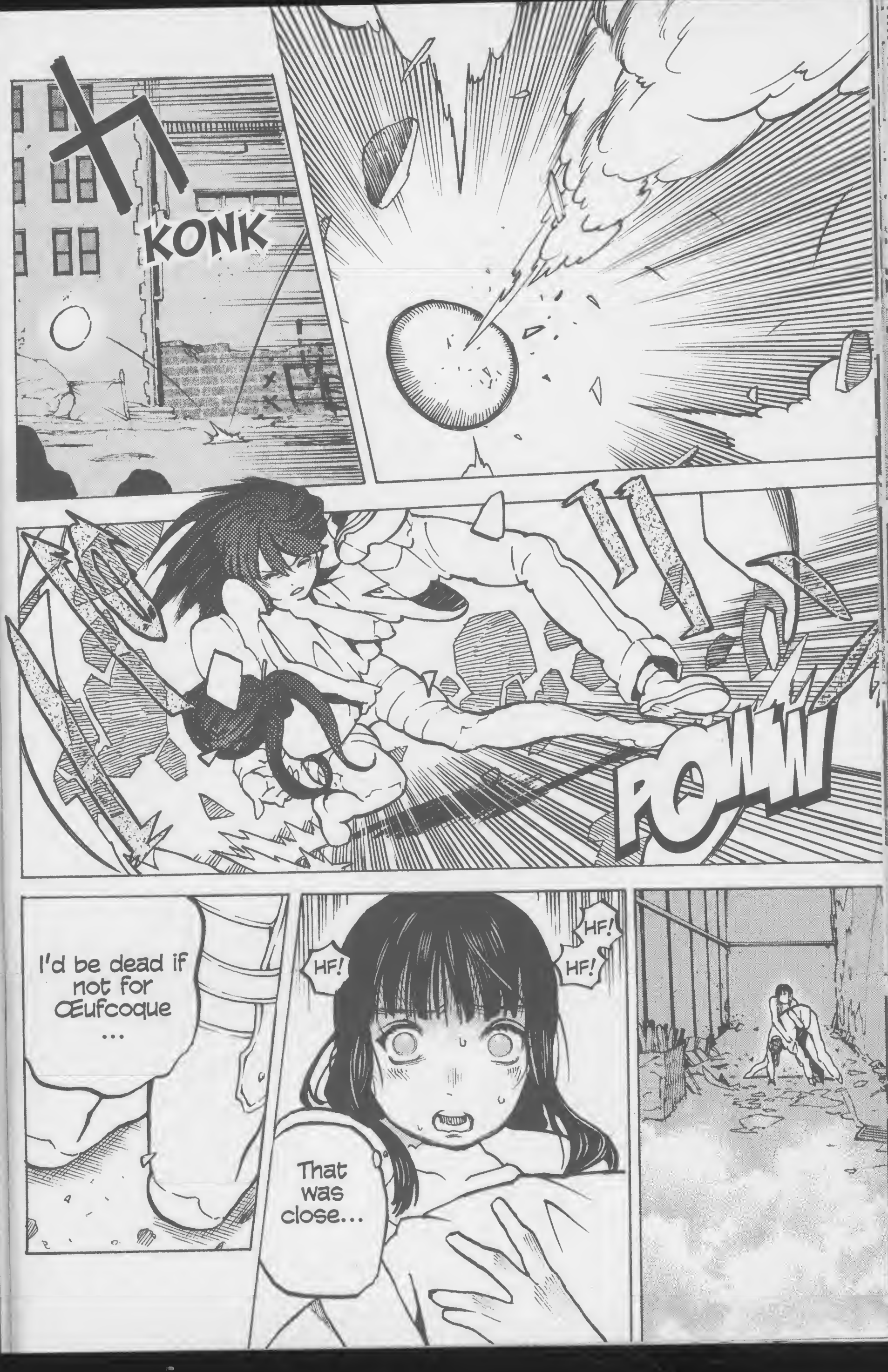

I don't need to visit a festival on my day off.
I don't need a family or friends.
My daily life can be boring.
But ...
...if I could be allowed one indulgence...

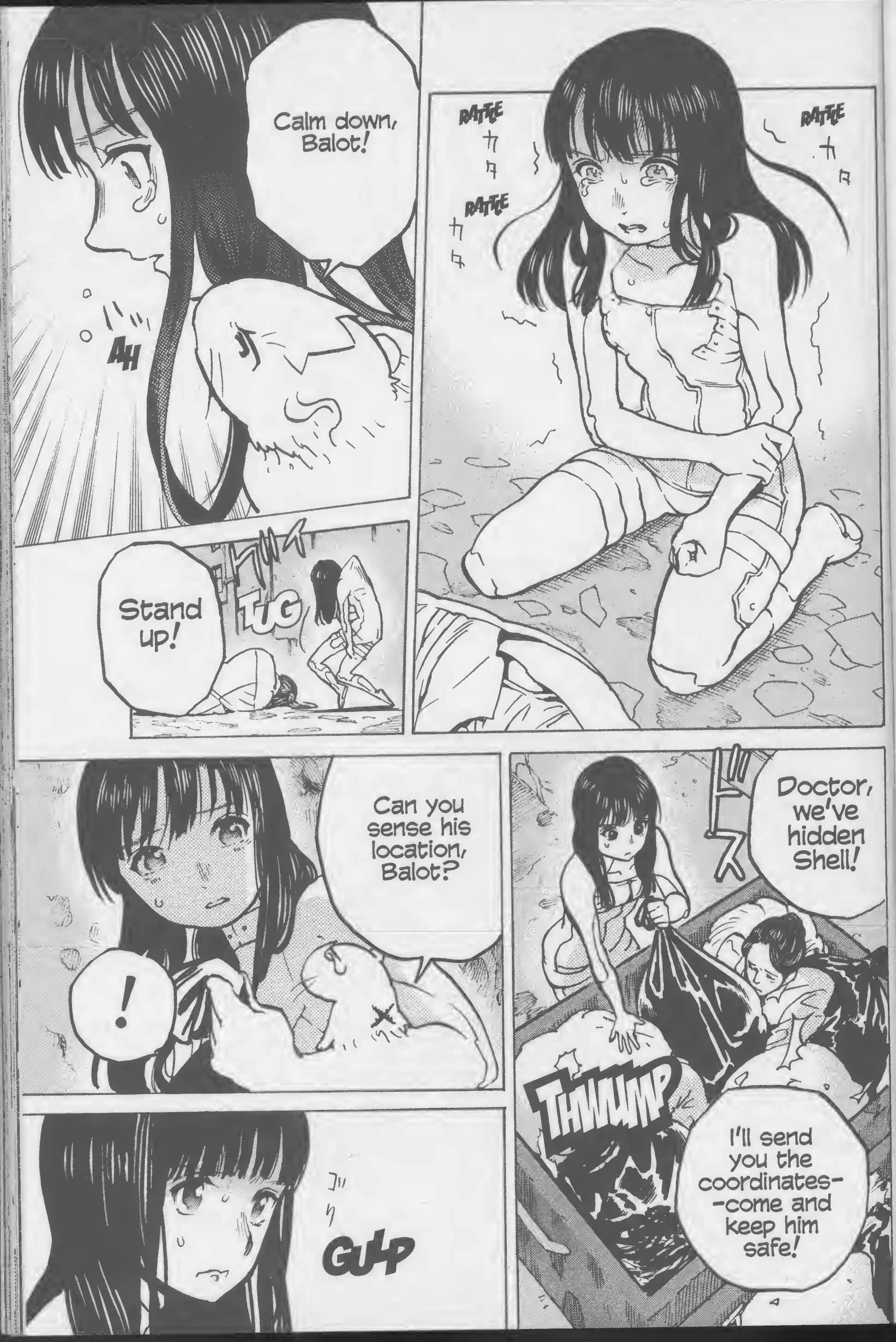

"I don't want to die."
That's what you're thinking, isn't it?
Then come and kill me.
Do what you must to survive.

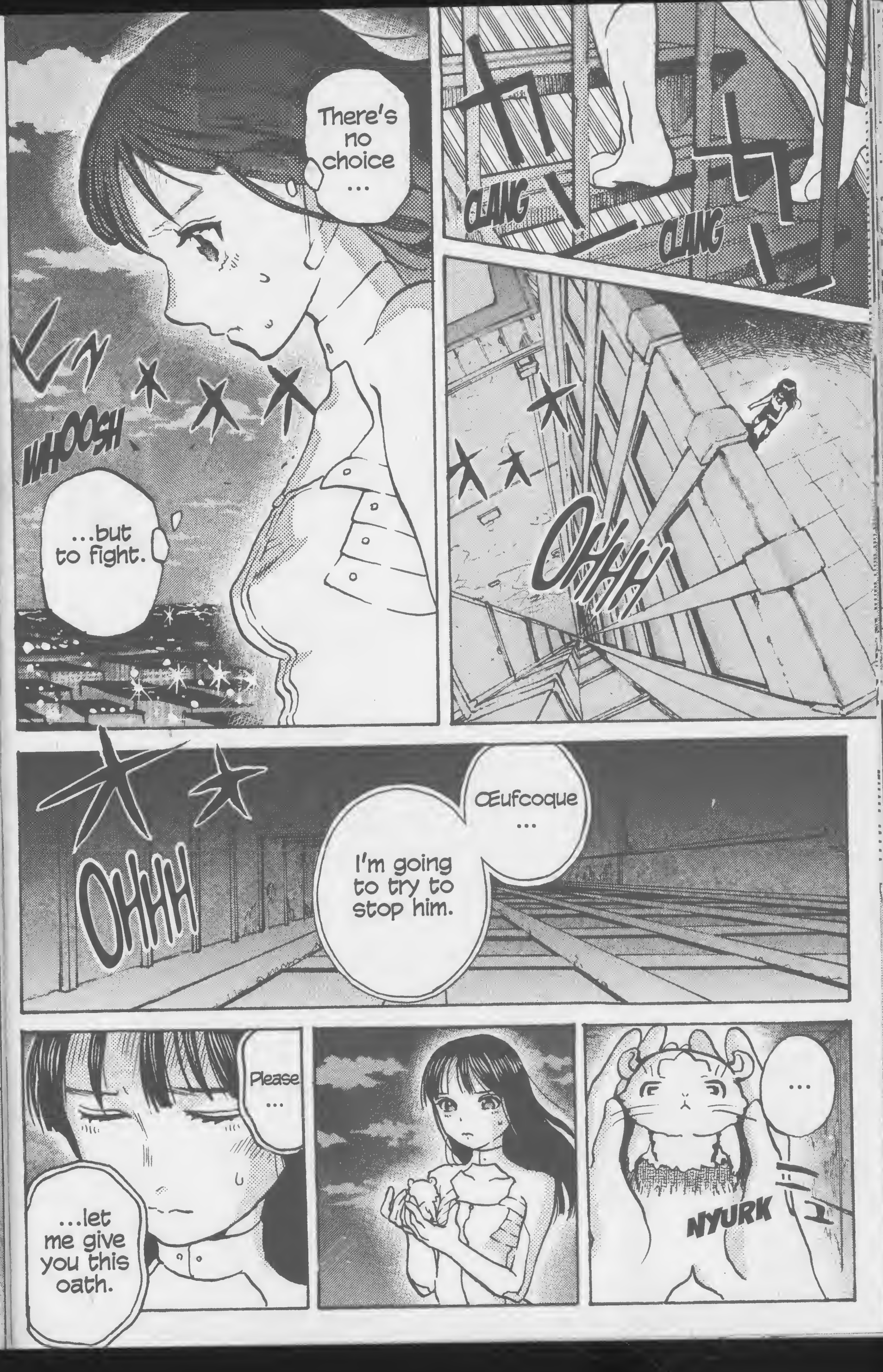

I...
I don't want to kill.
Yes, you do.
You will use a gun, "because you had to protect yourself."
That will be your *excuse* when you abuse Œufcoque again.
We monsters know the pleasure of killing another human being, don't we?

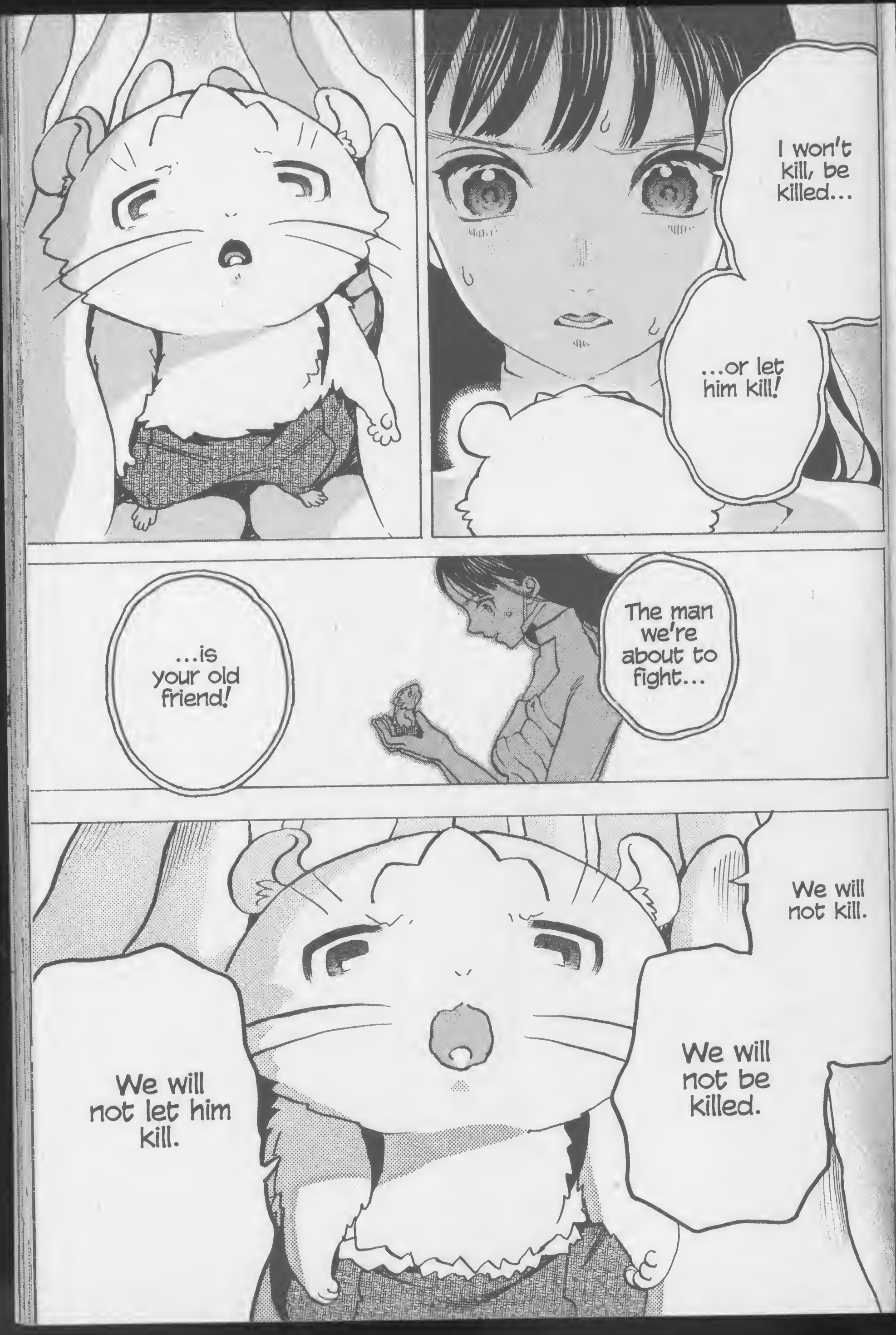

Boiled! Please, go back to the old Boiled!
Let's stop playing war already.
Please?

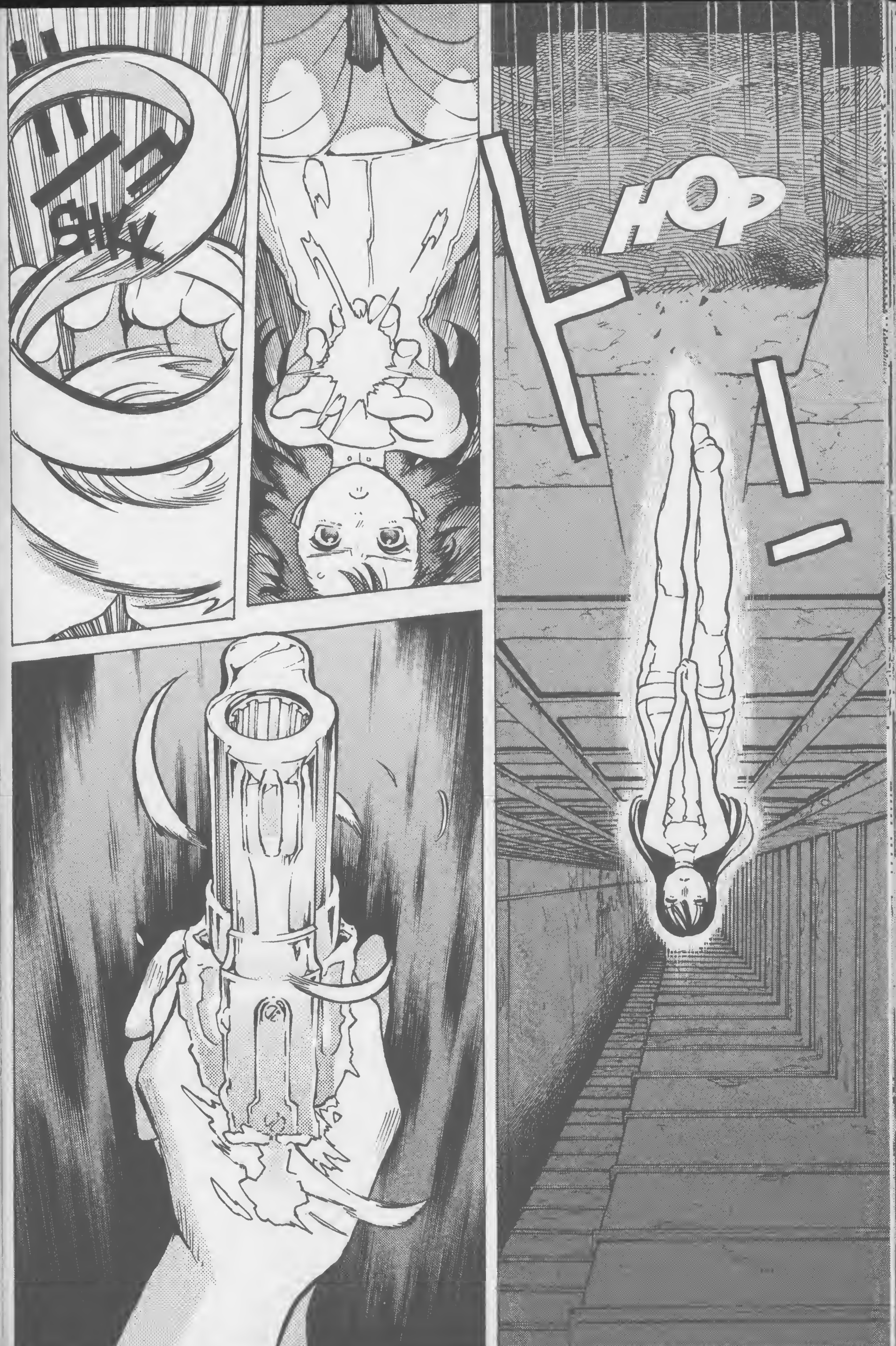

I agree.
Today will be the end of it.
BOOOM

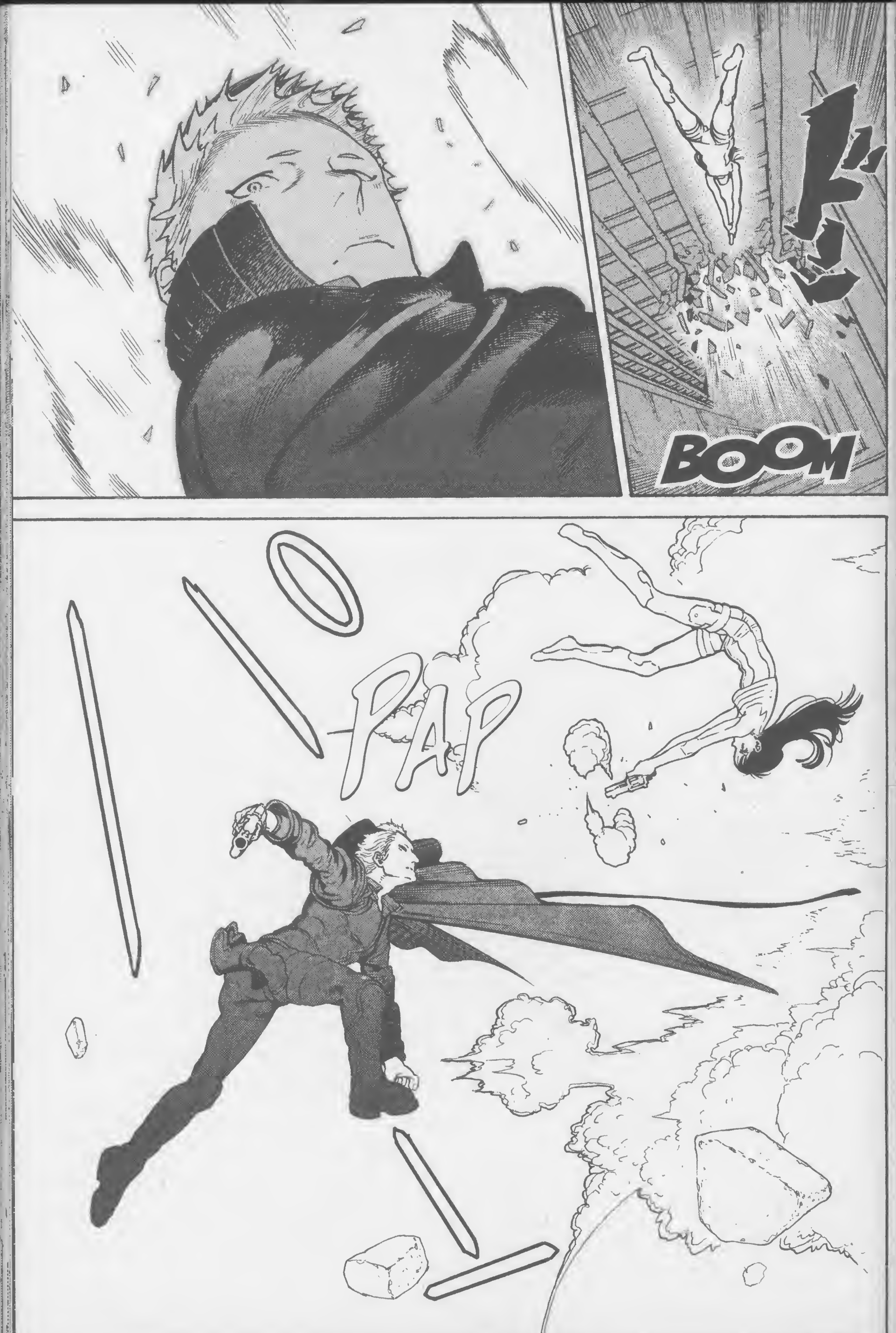

KONK
POW
HF!
HF!
HF!
That was close...
I'd be dead if not for Œufcoque ...

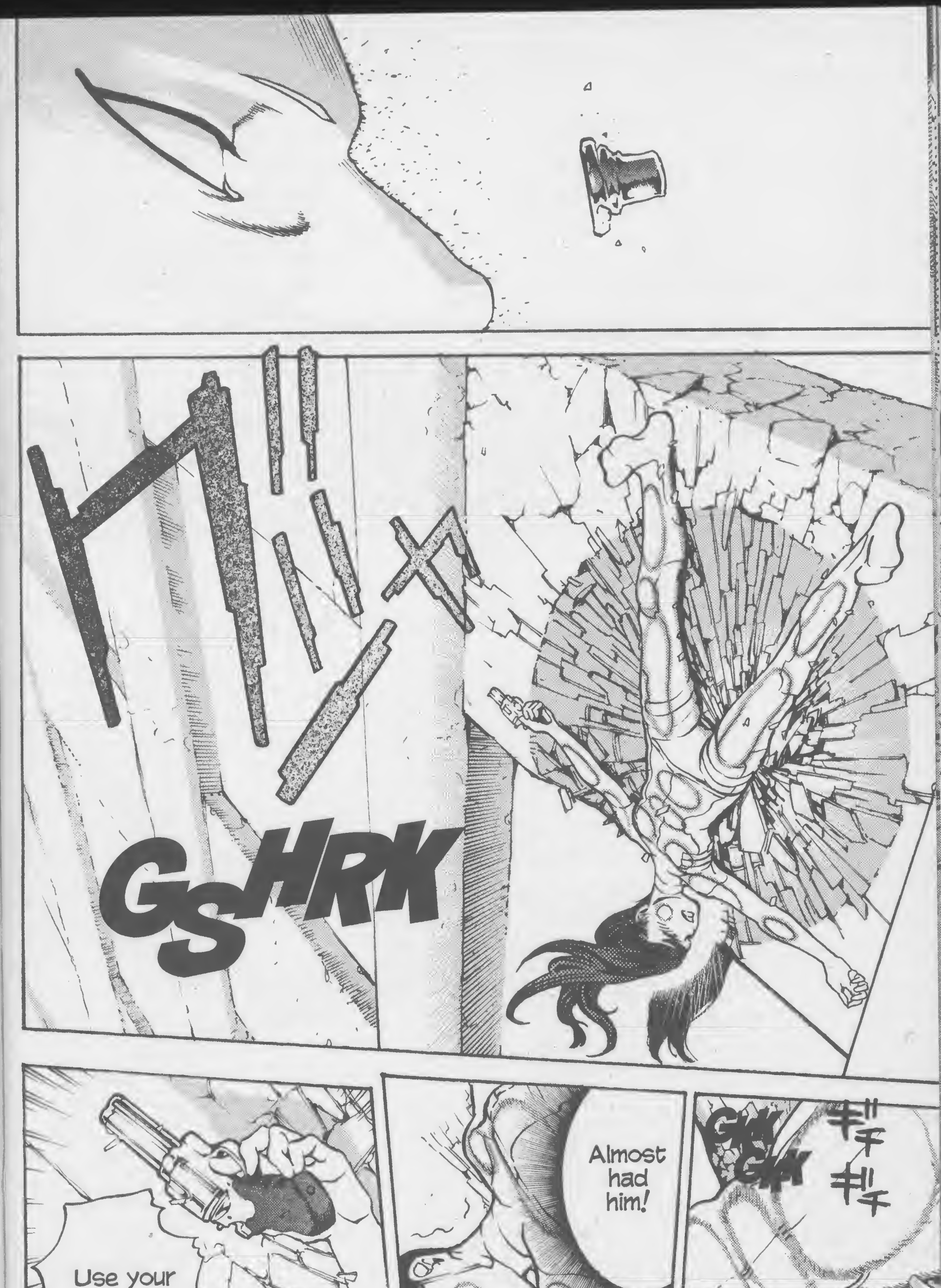

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
Calm down, Balot!
AH
Stand up!
TUG
Doctor, we've hidden Shell!
THWUMP
I'll send you the coordinates--come and keep him safe!
Can you sense his location, Balot?
!
GULP

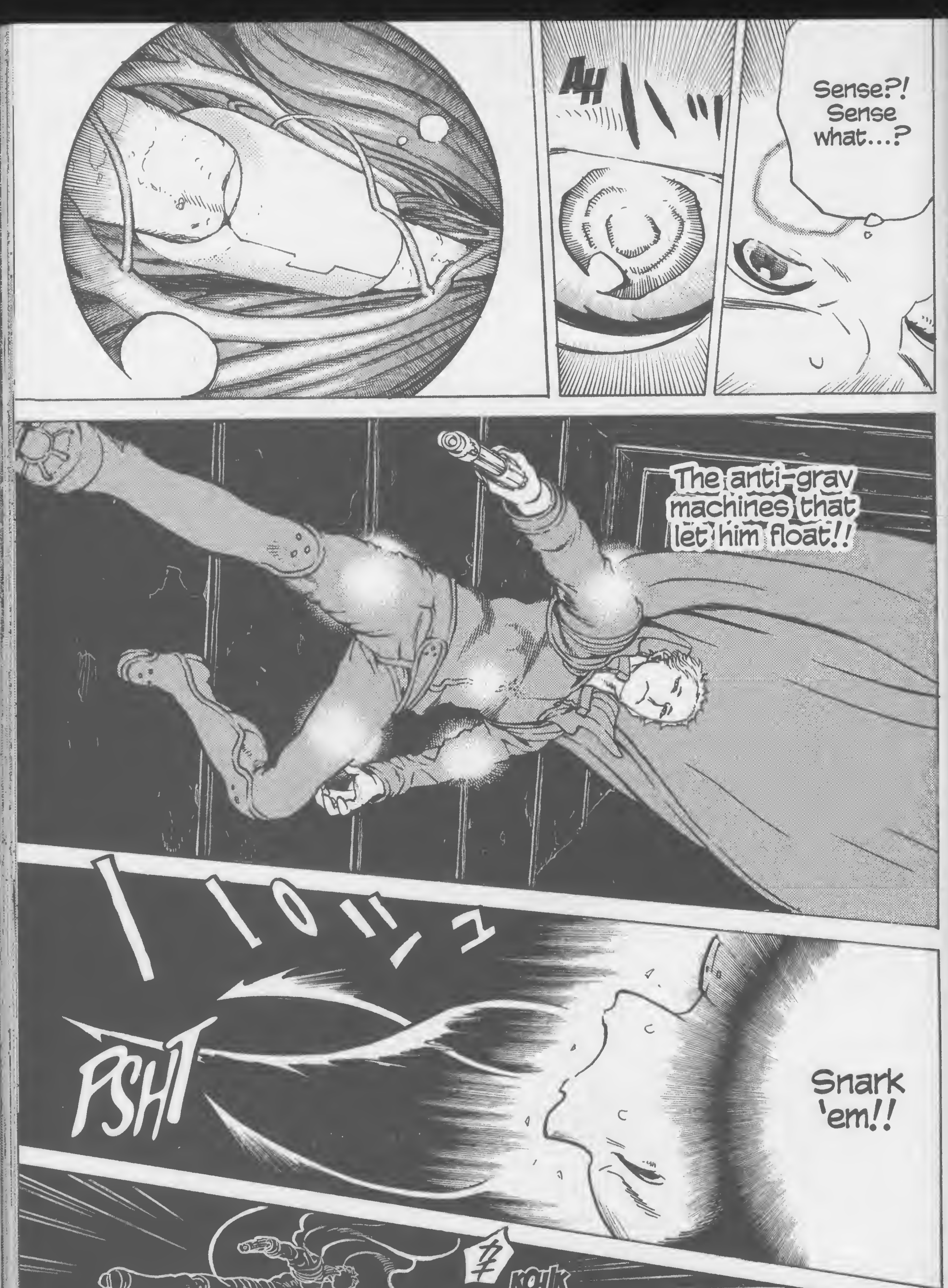

CLANG
CLANG
OHHH
There's no choice ...
WHOOSH
...but to fight.
OHHH
Œufcoque ...
I'm going to try to stop him.
...
NYURK
Please ...
...let me give you this oath.

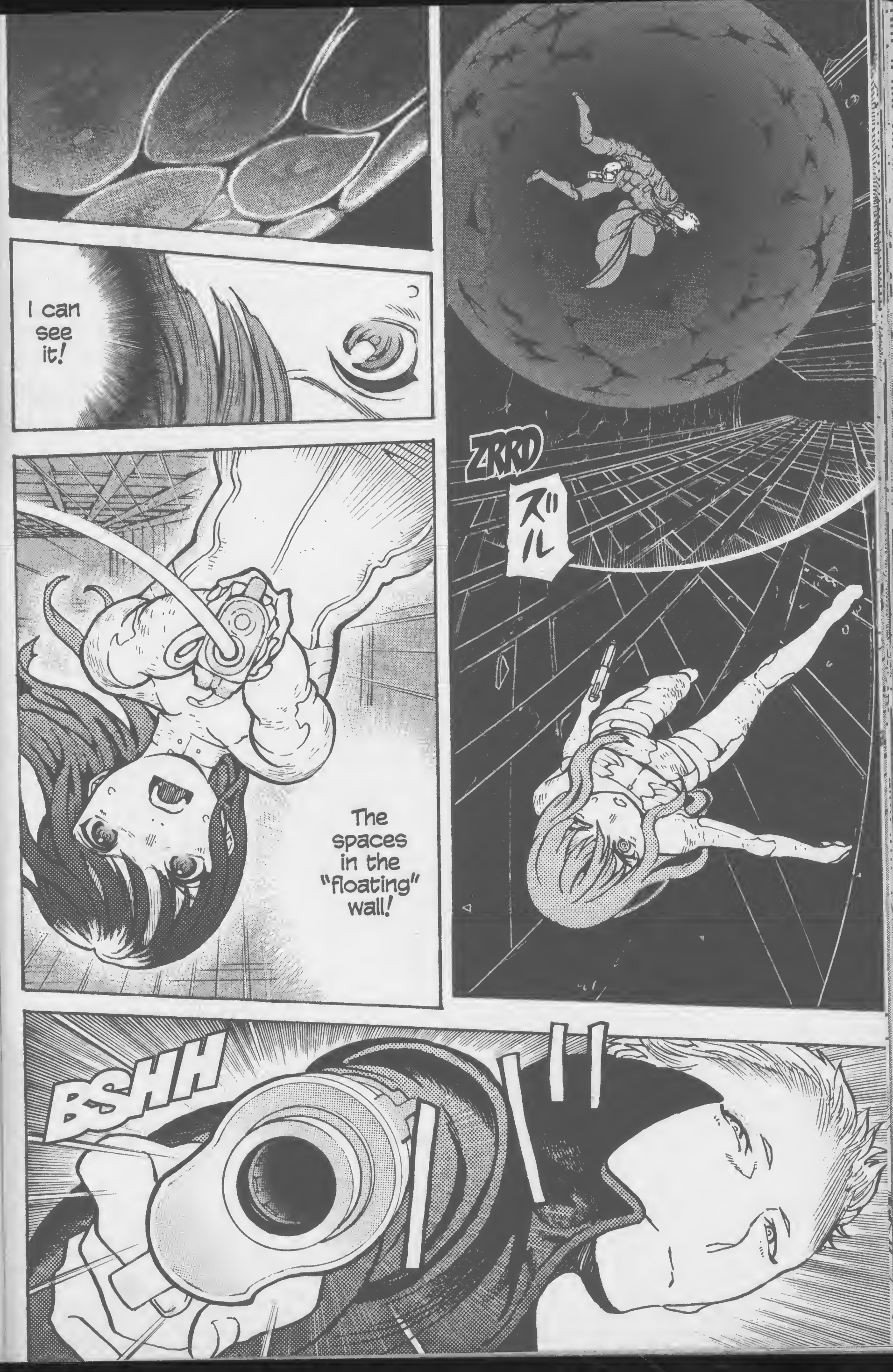

I won't kill, be killed...
...or let him kill!
The man we're about to fight...
...is your old friend!
We will not kill.
We will not be killed.
We will not let him kill.


HOP
SHIK

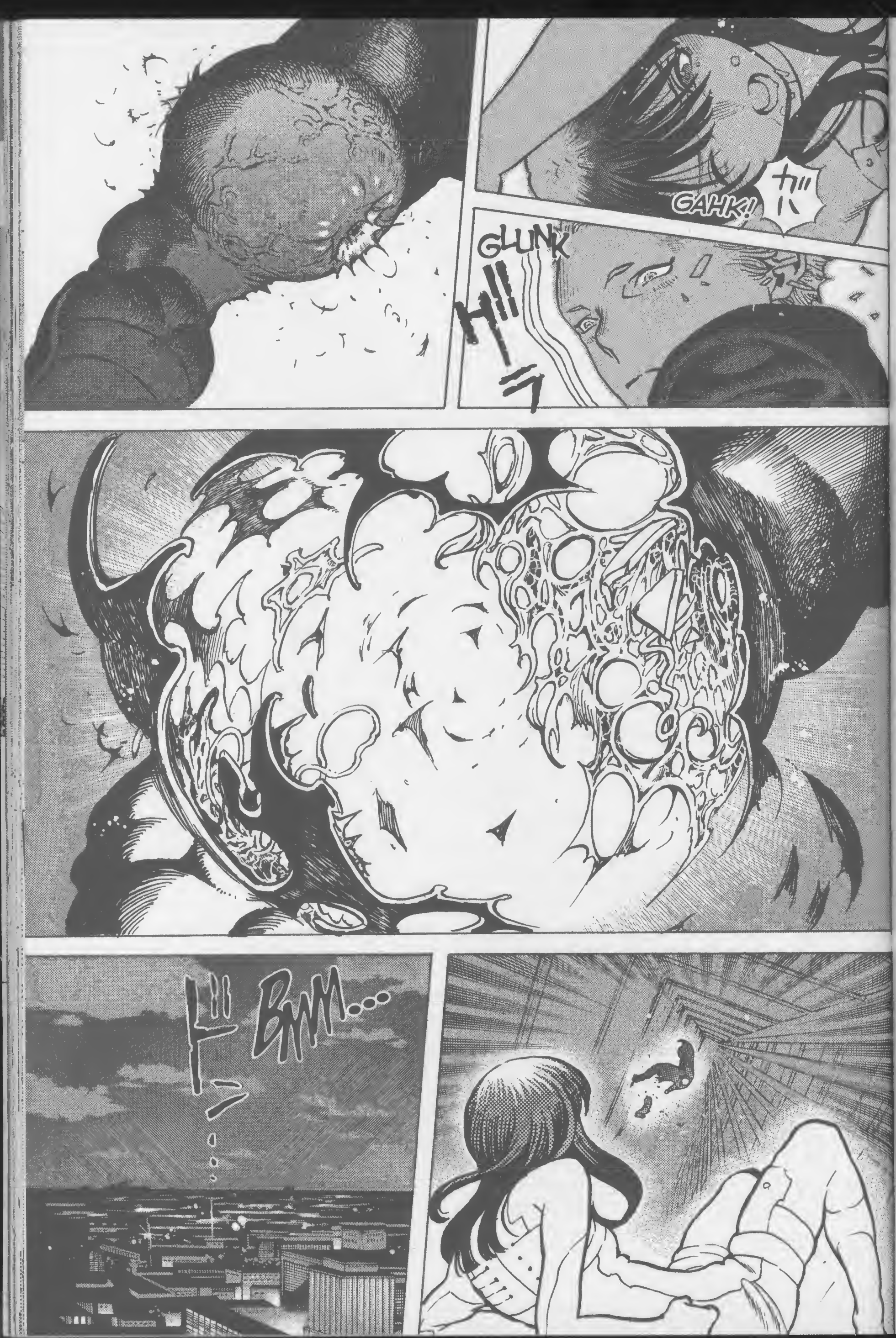

BOOM
PAP

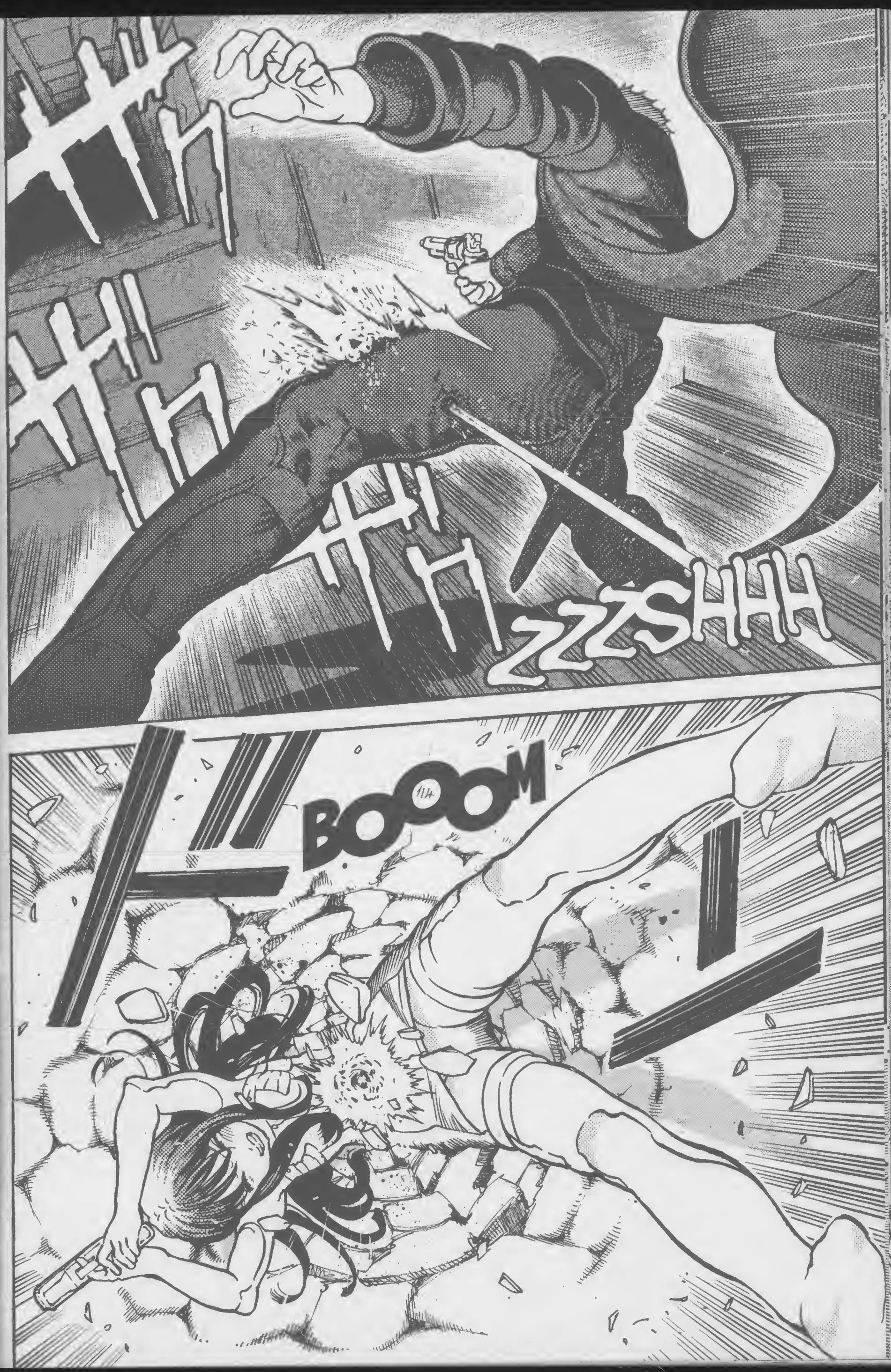

GSHRK
GYAK GYAK
ギチ ギチ
Almost had him!
Use your senses, Balot!

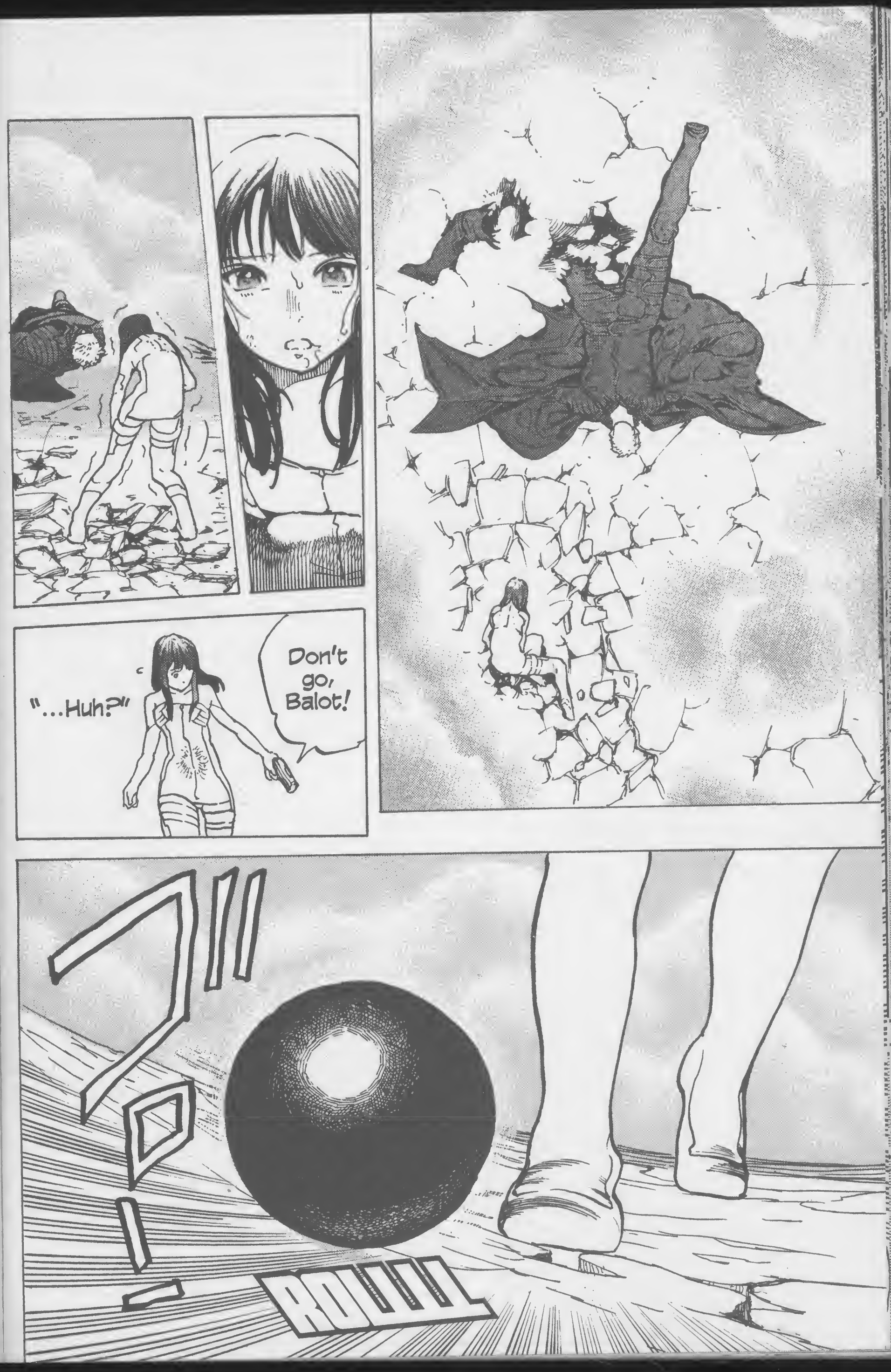

Sense?! Sense what...?
AH
The anti-grav machines that let him float!!
Snark 'em!!
PSHT
KCHIK
KCHIK
KCHIK

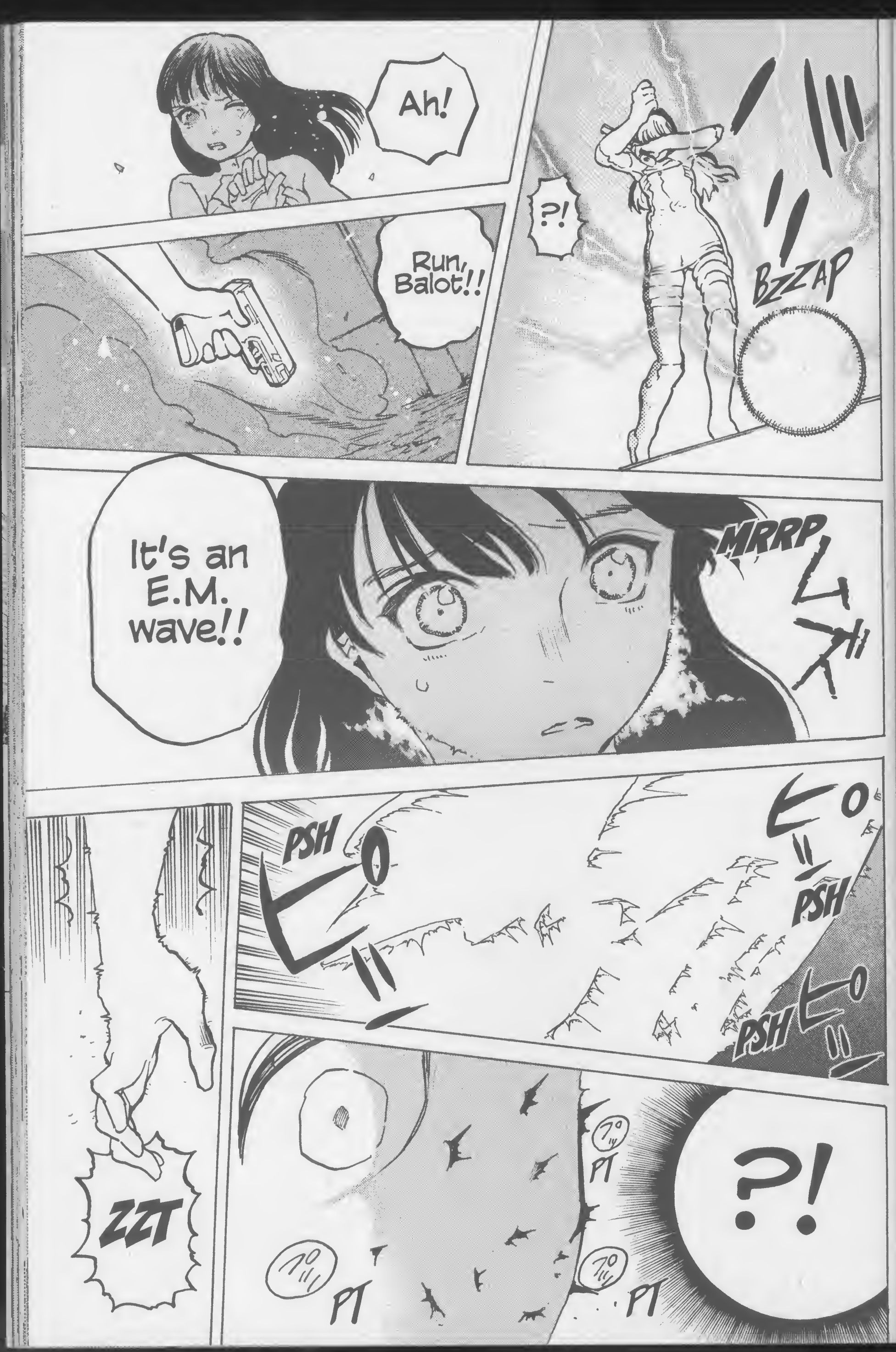

ZRRD
ズル
I can see it!
The spaces in the "floating" wall!
BSHH

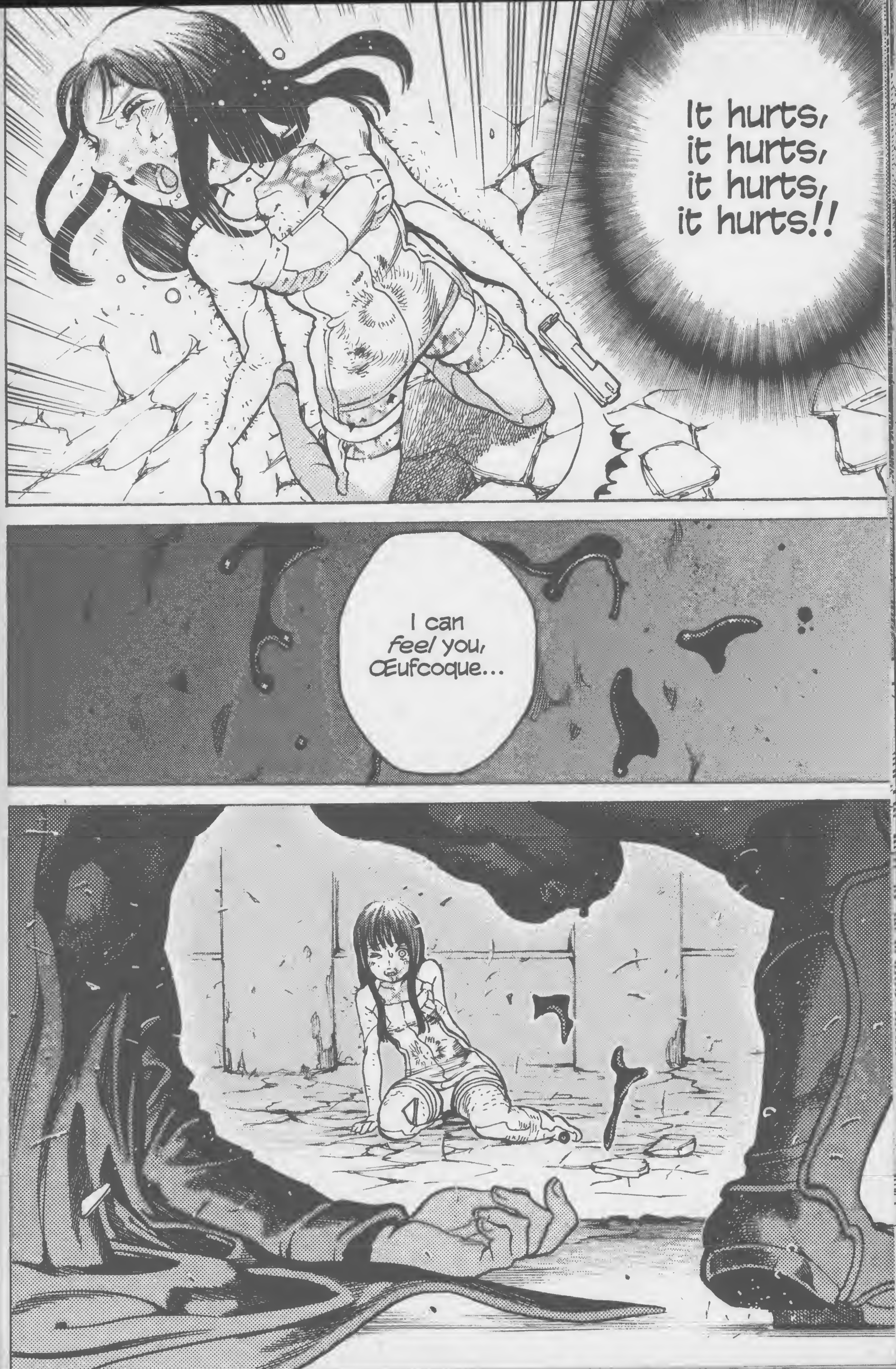
BLAM

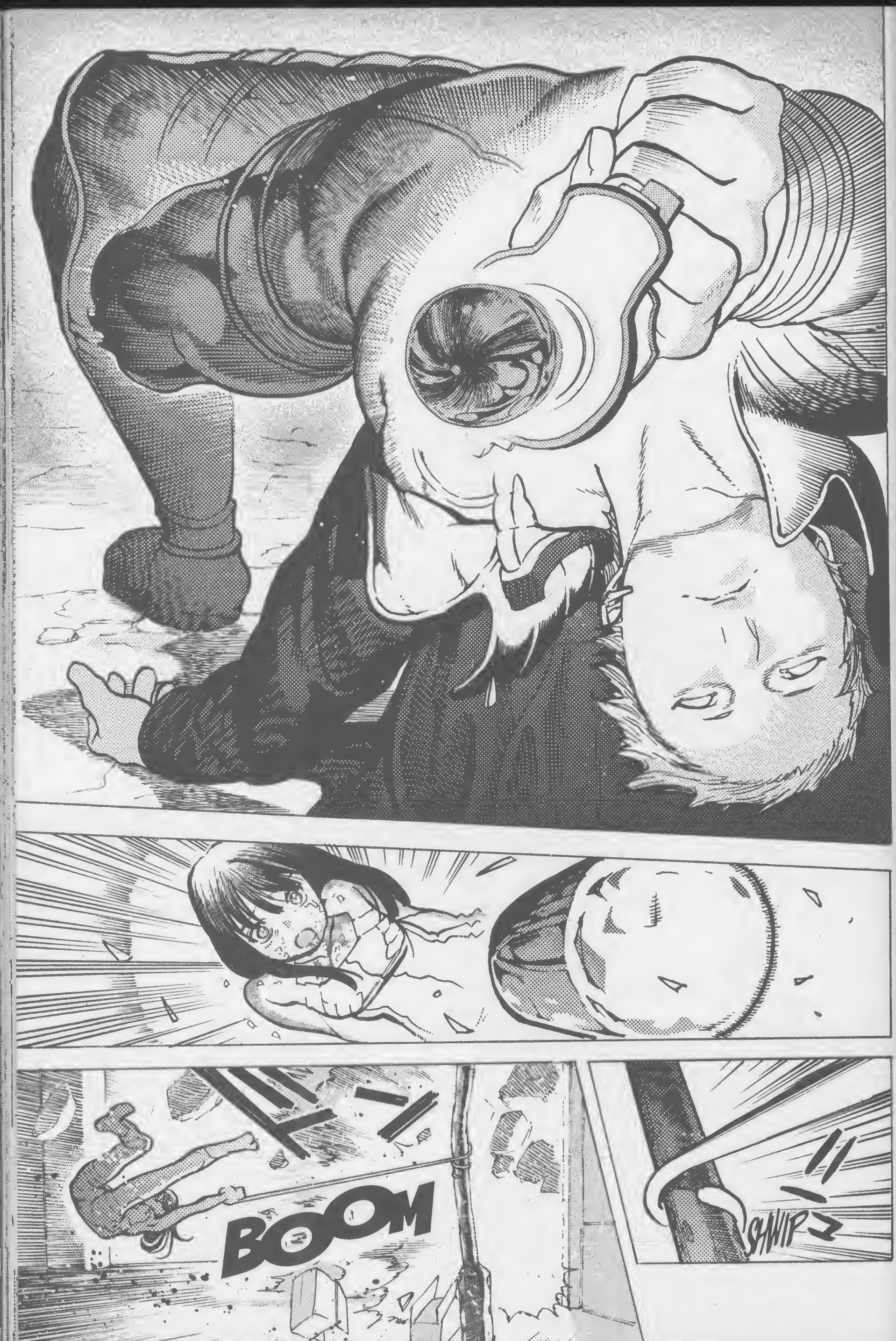

GAHK!
ガバ
GLUNK
ドラ
BAM...
ドン…

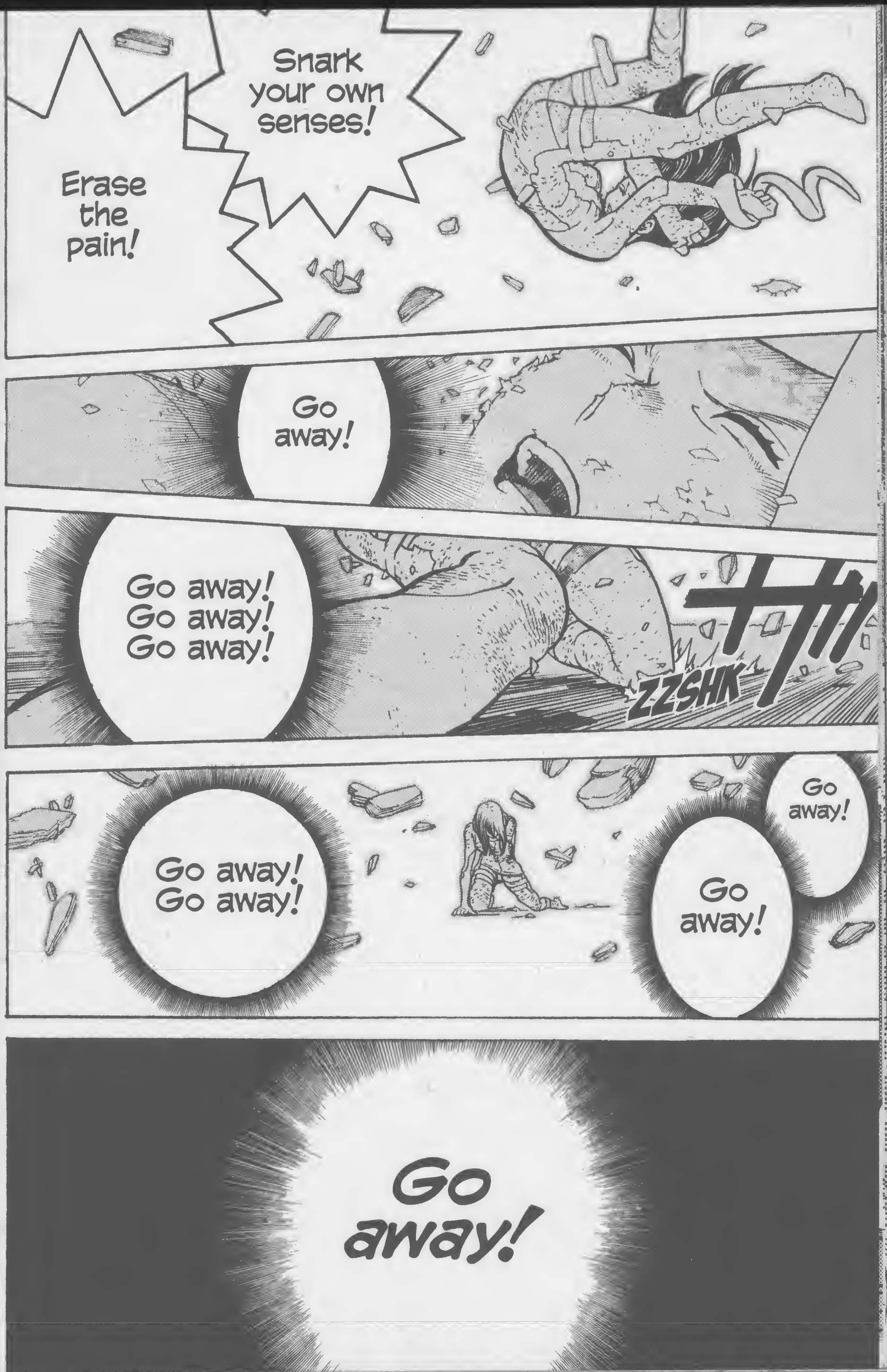

ザク
ザク
ザク
ザク
ZZZSHHH
BOOOM
ドン

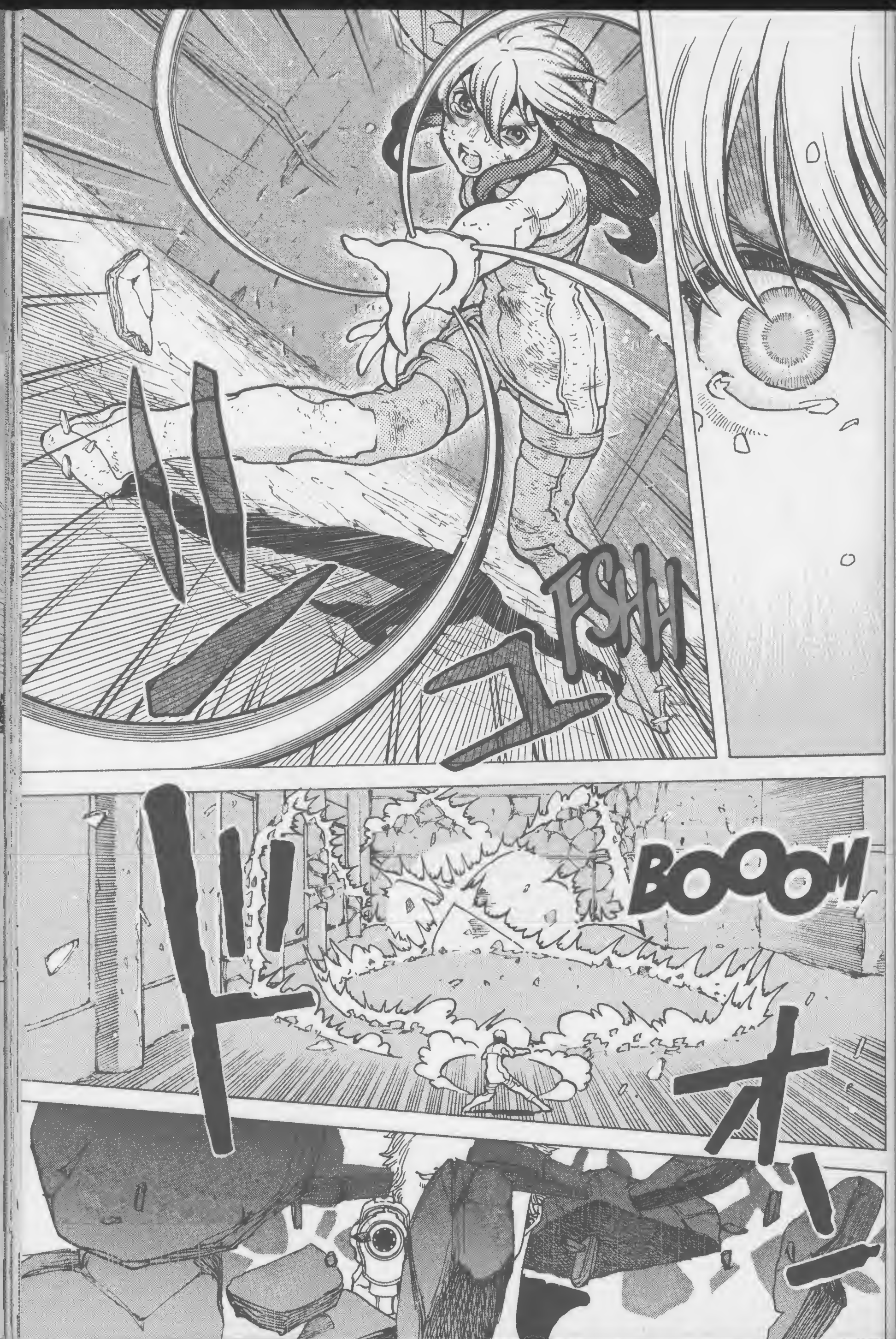

Don't go, Balot!
"...Huh?"
ROLLL

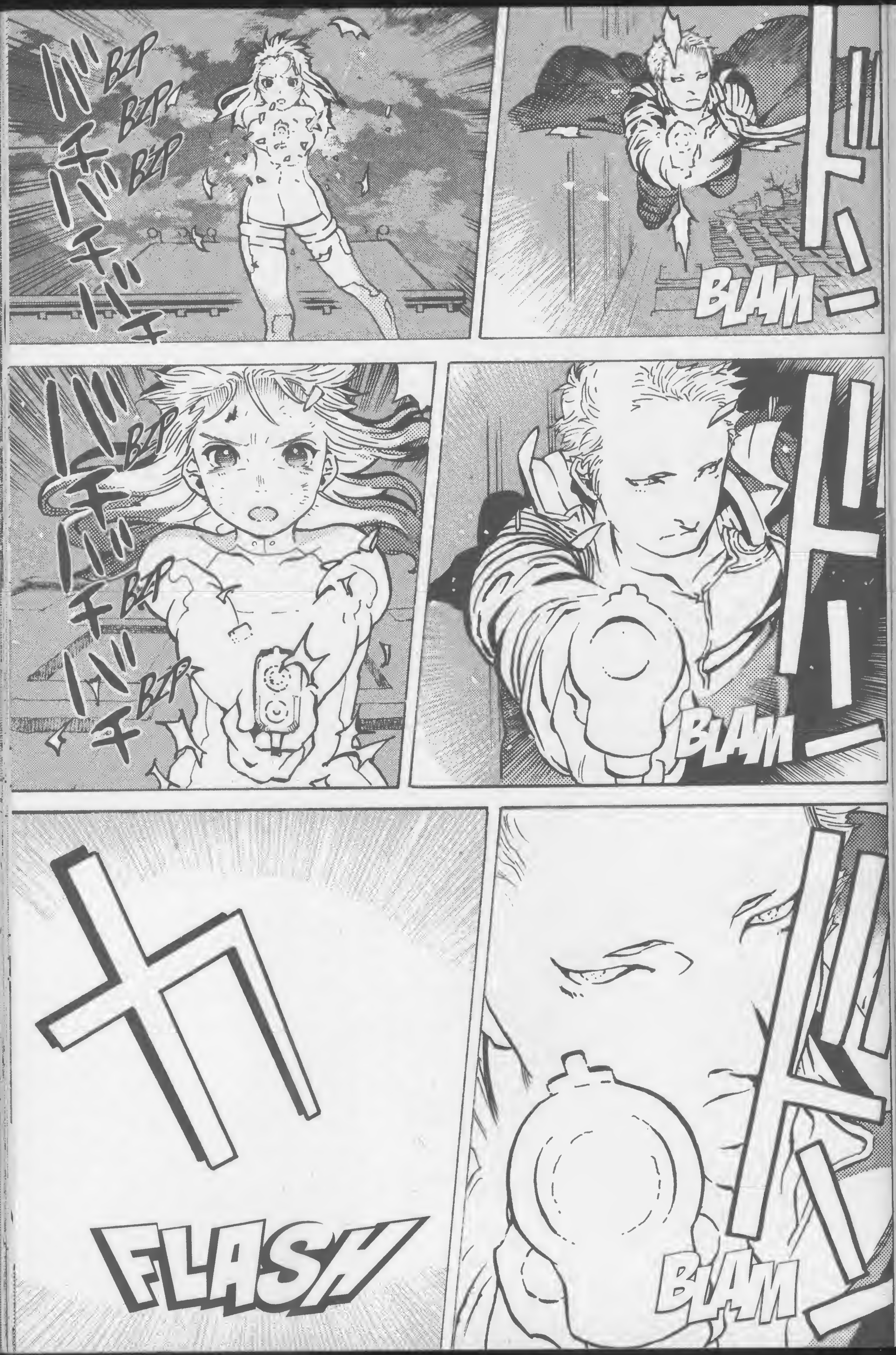

?!
BZZZAP
Ah!
Run, Balot!!
MRRP
It's an E.M. wave!!
PSH
PSH
PSH
?!
PT
PT
PT
ZZT


It hurts, it hurts, it hurts, it hurts!!
I can *feel* you, Œufcoque...

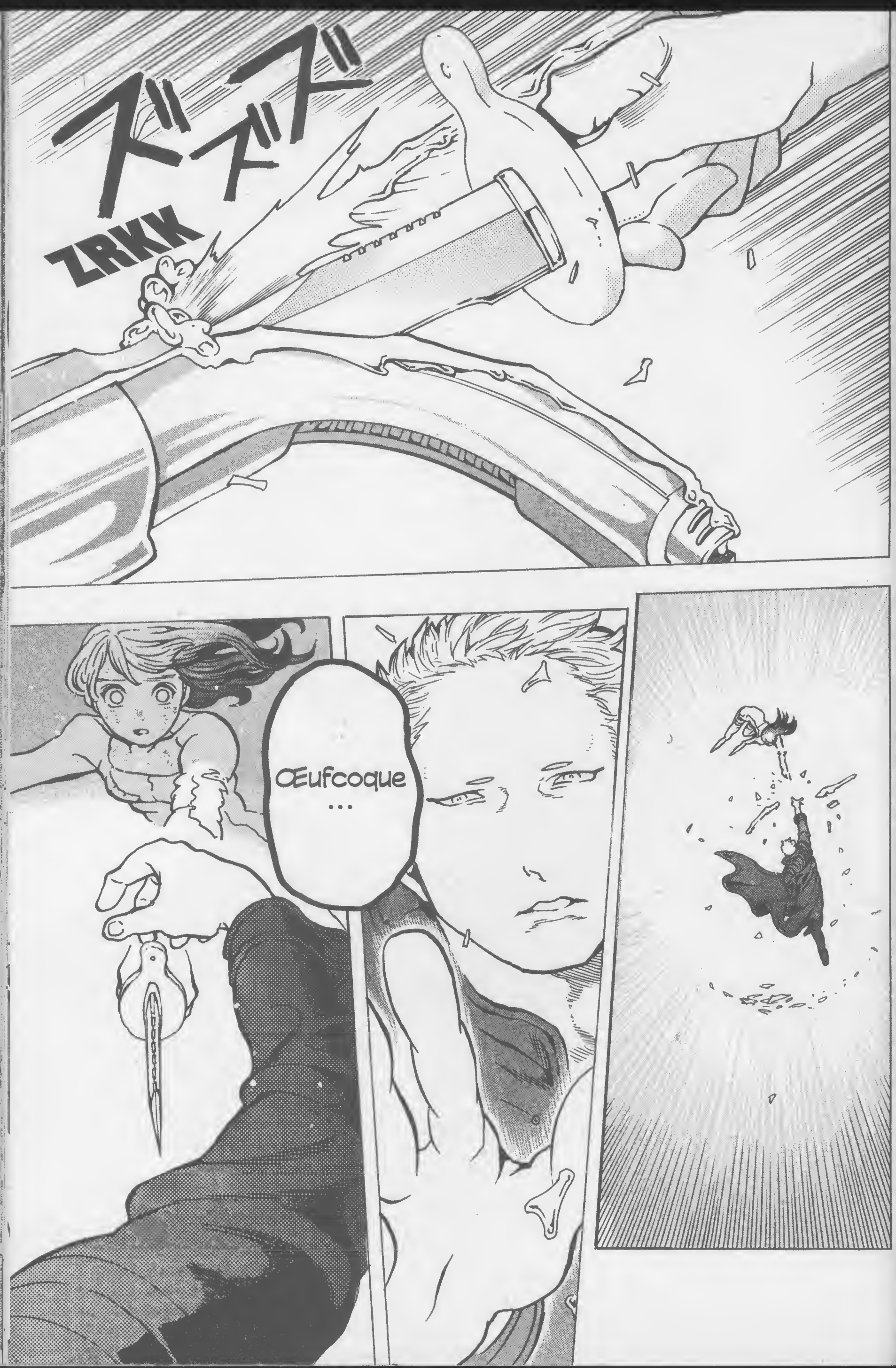

BOOM
SHWIP

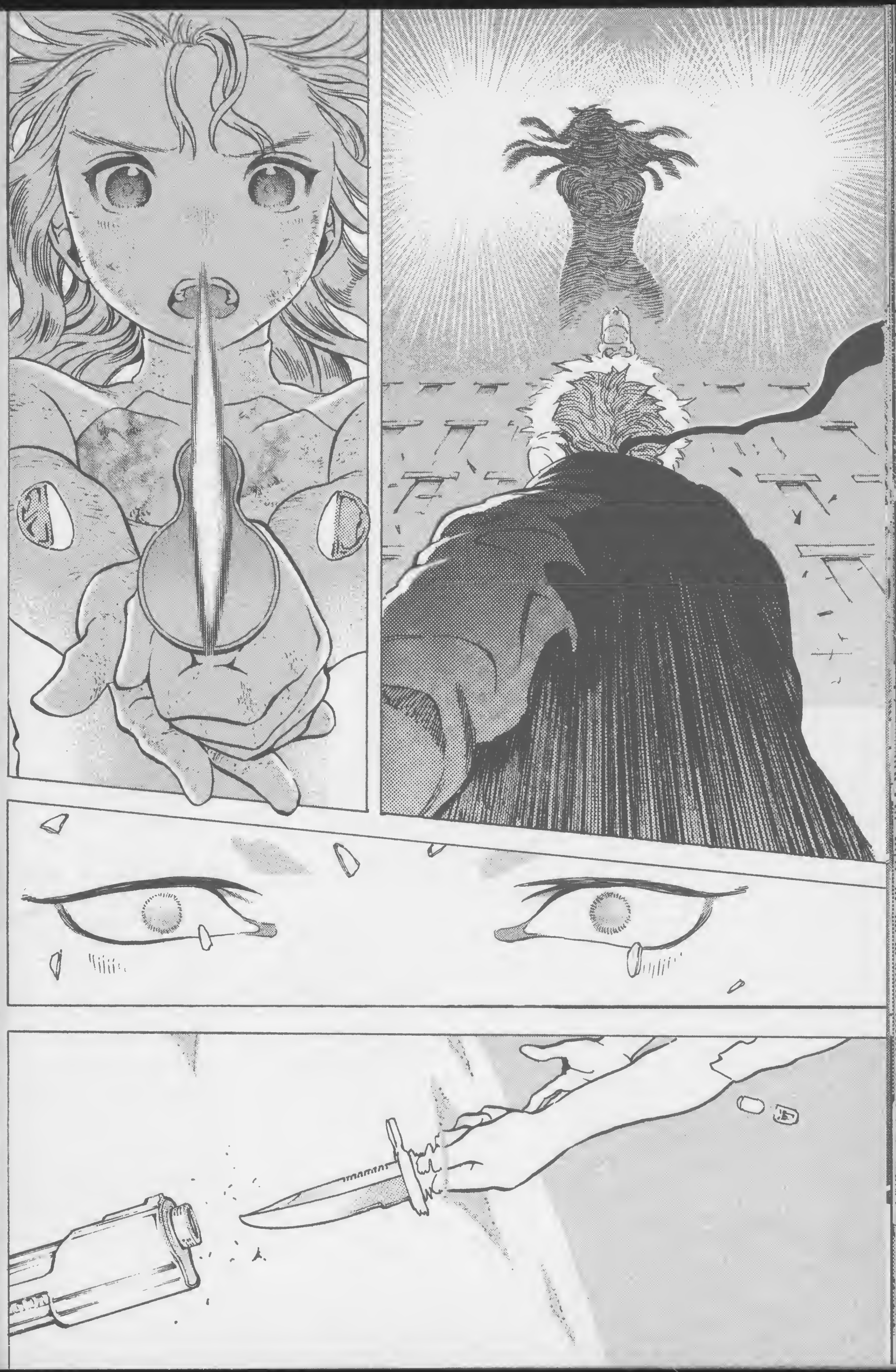

Snark your own senses!
Erase the pain!
Go away!
Go away! Go away! Go away!
ZZSHK
Go away!
Go away!
Go away! Go away!
Go away!

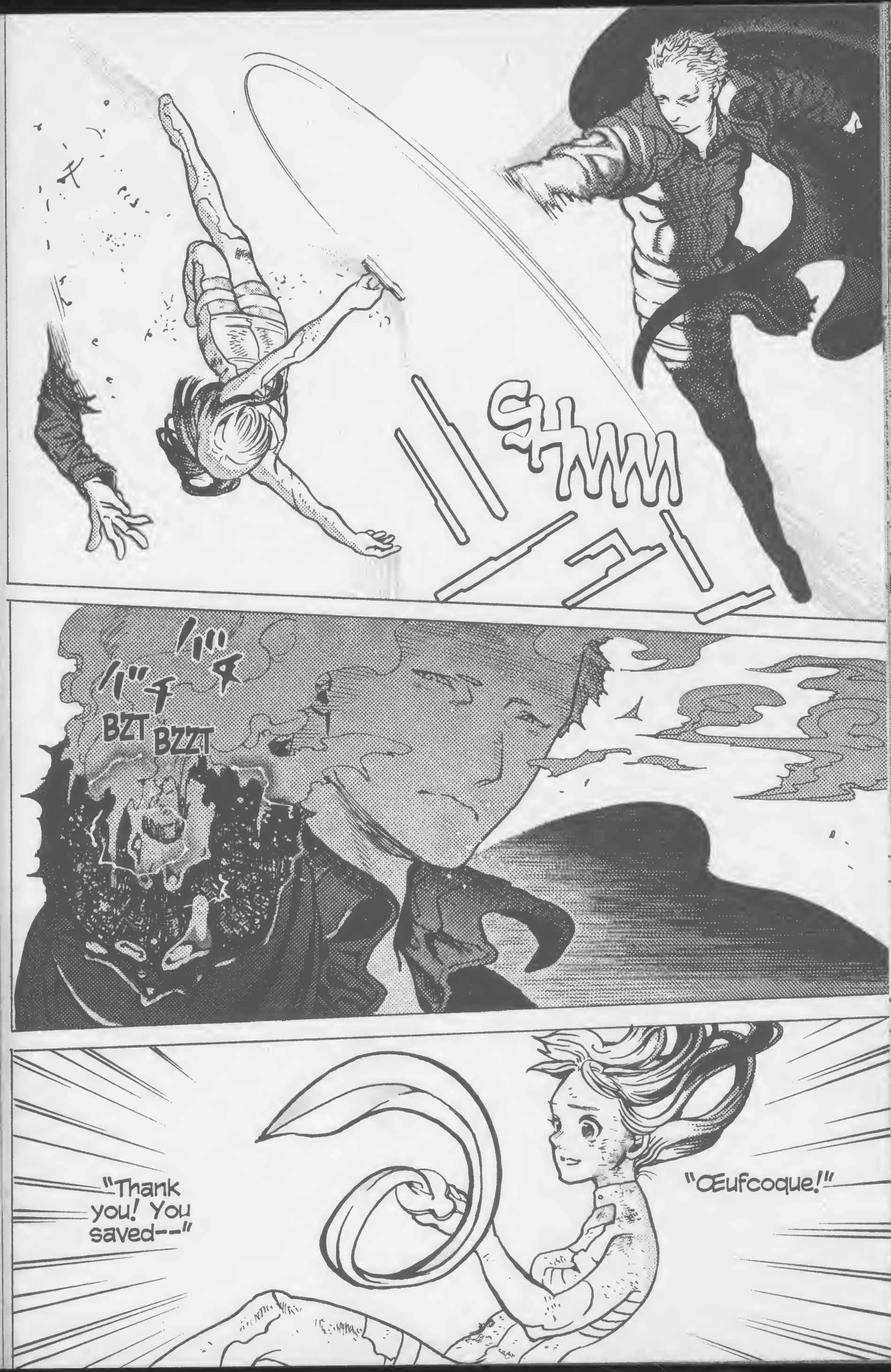

FSHH
BOOOM

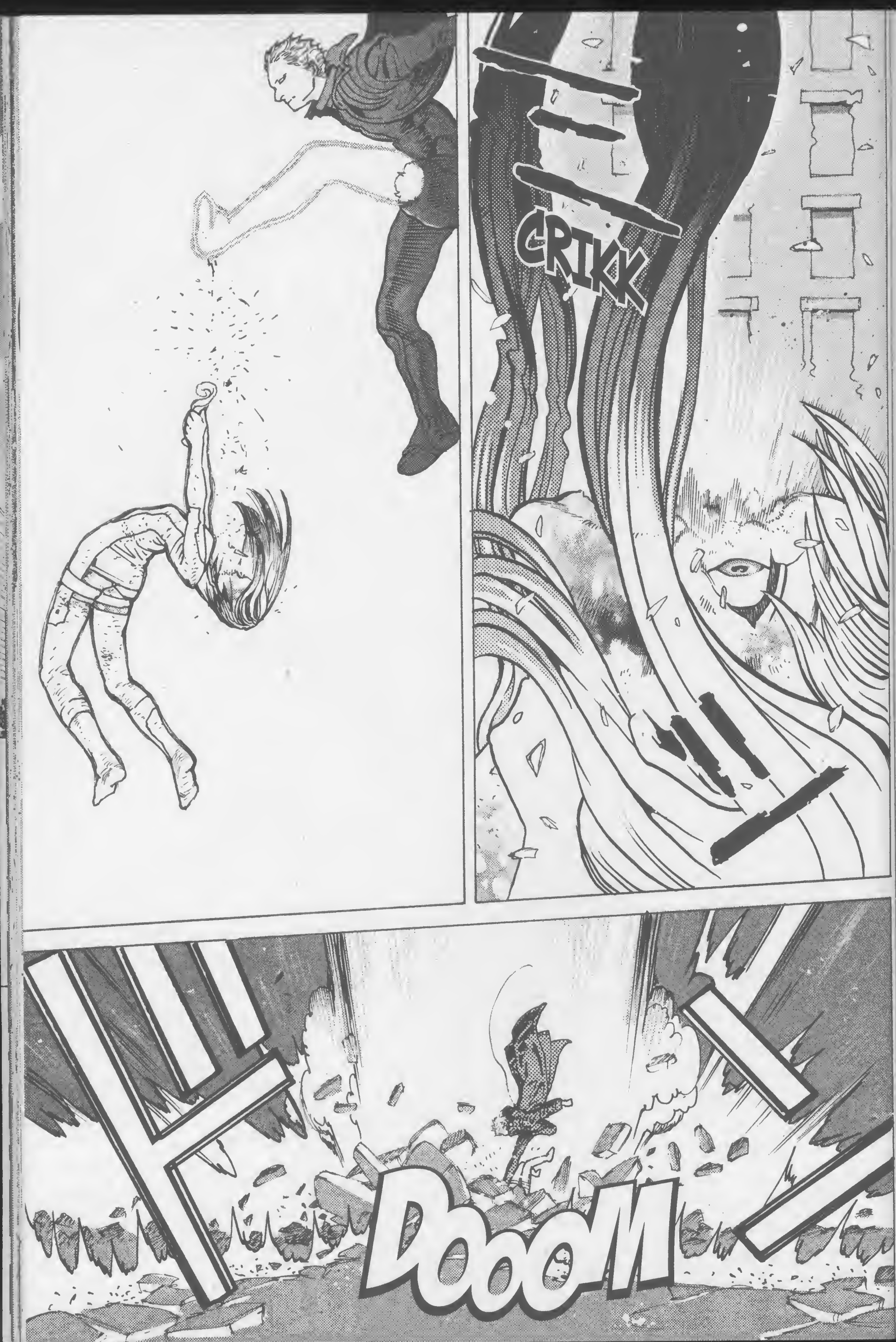

ドン
BLAM
バチバチバチ
BZP
BZP
BZP
ドン
BLAM
バチバチバチ
BZP
BZP
BZP
ドン
BLAM
カッ
FLASH

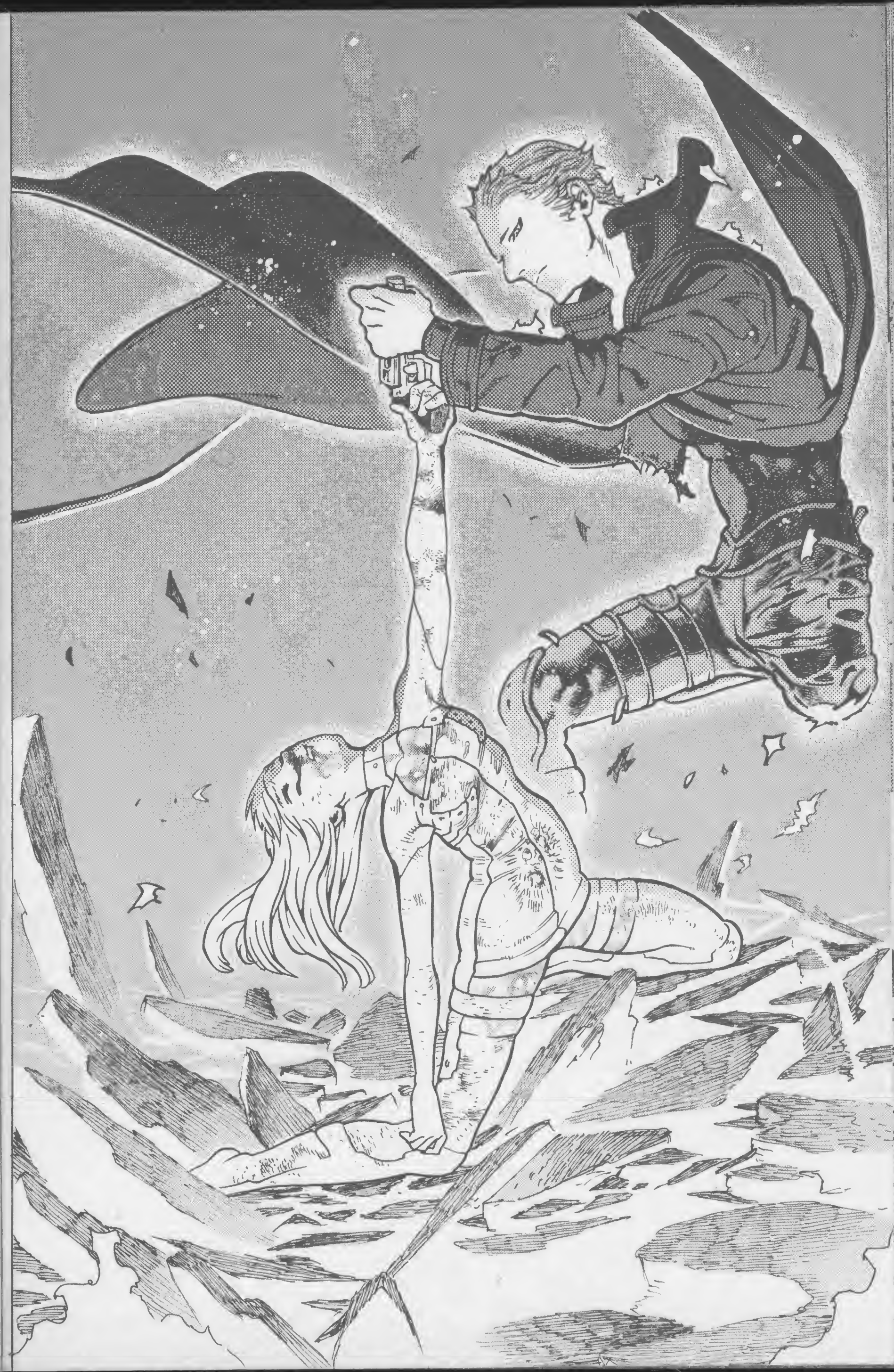
シュル
SHHHK
シュルルルル
FSHRRR
ドッ
DMM
ドン
BOOM
パパパパパパ
PAM
PAM
PAM
PAM
PAM
バチバチ
BZT
BZT
BZT
トン
TEP

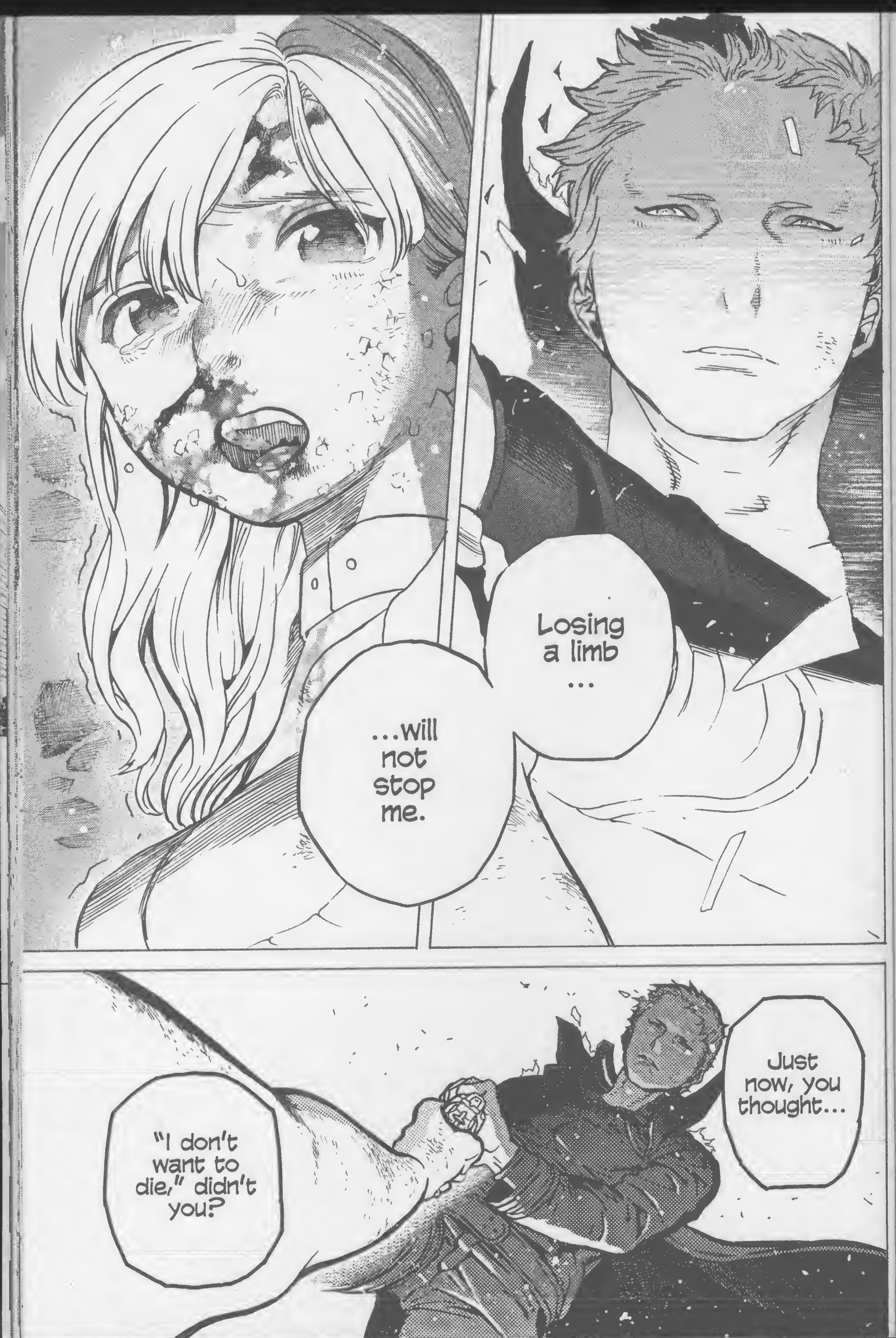

ズズズ
ZRKK
Œufcoque …

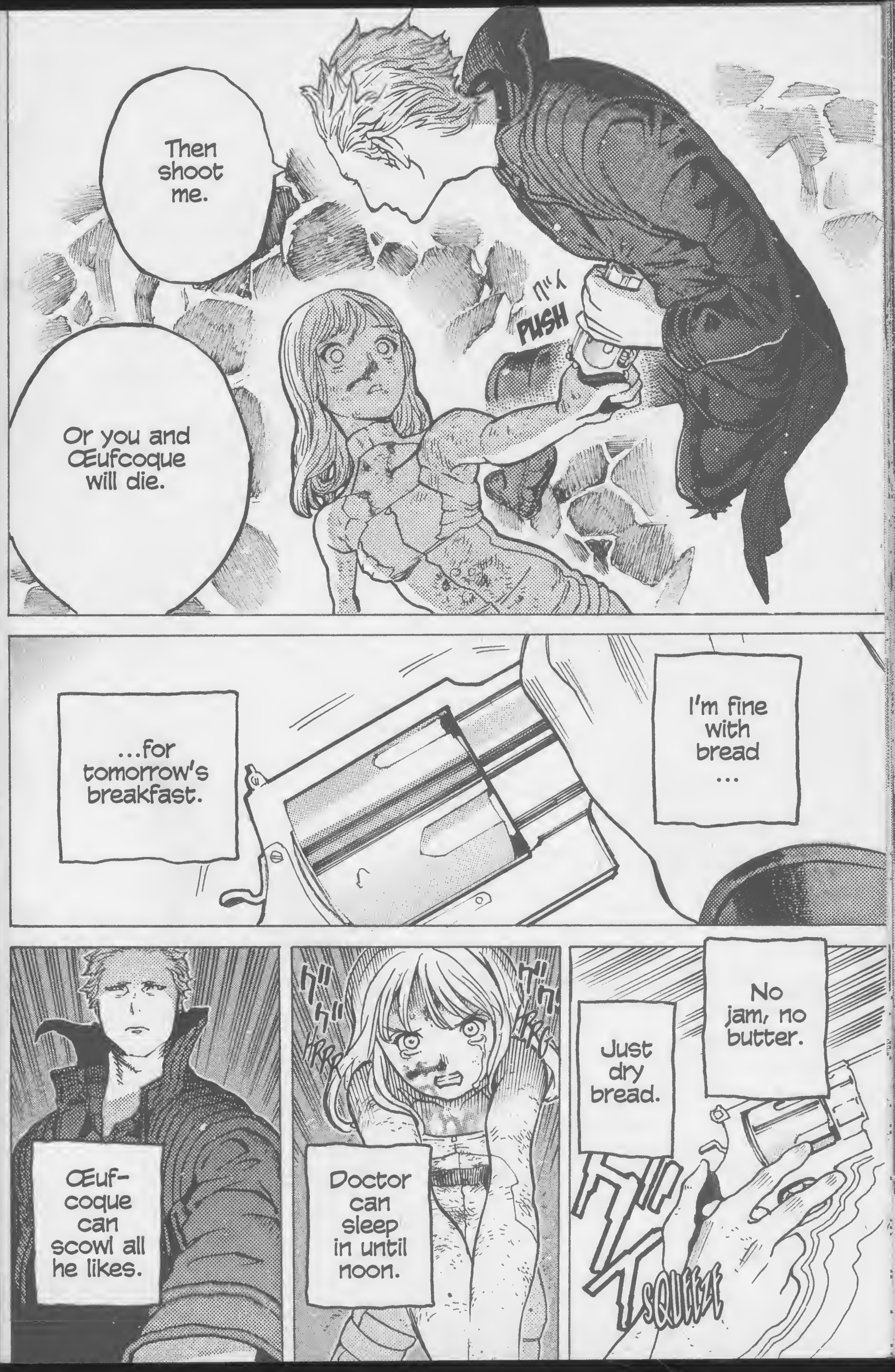


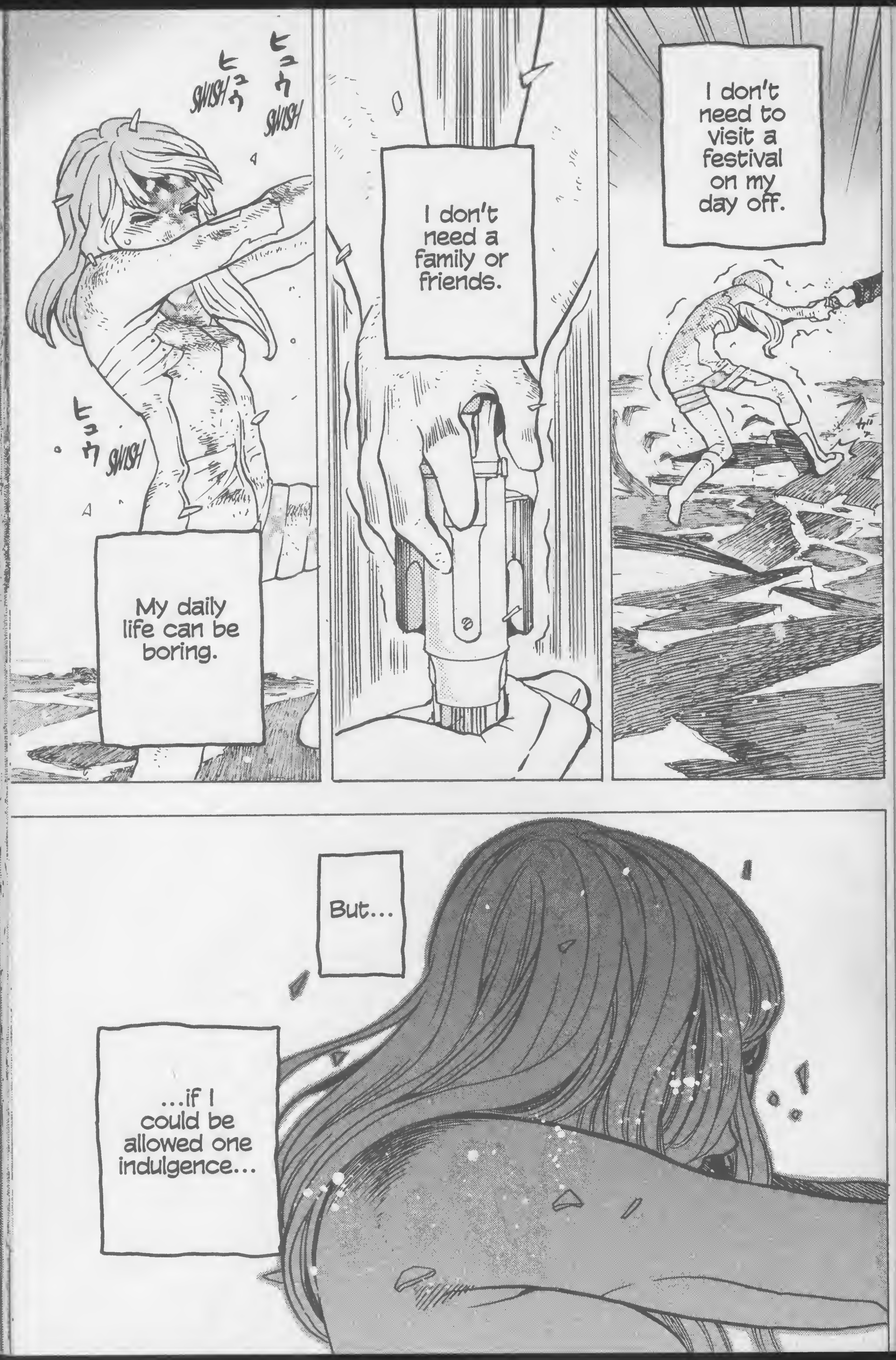

SHWM
バチ
バチ
BZT
BZZT
"Œufcoque!"
"Thank you! You saved--"

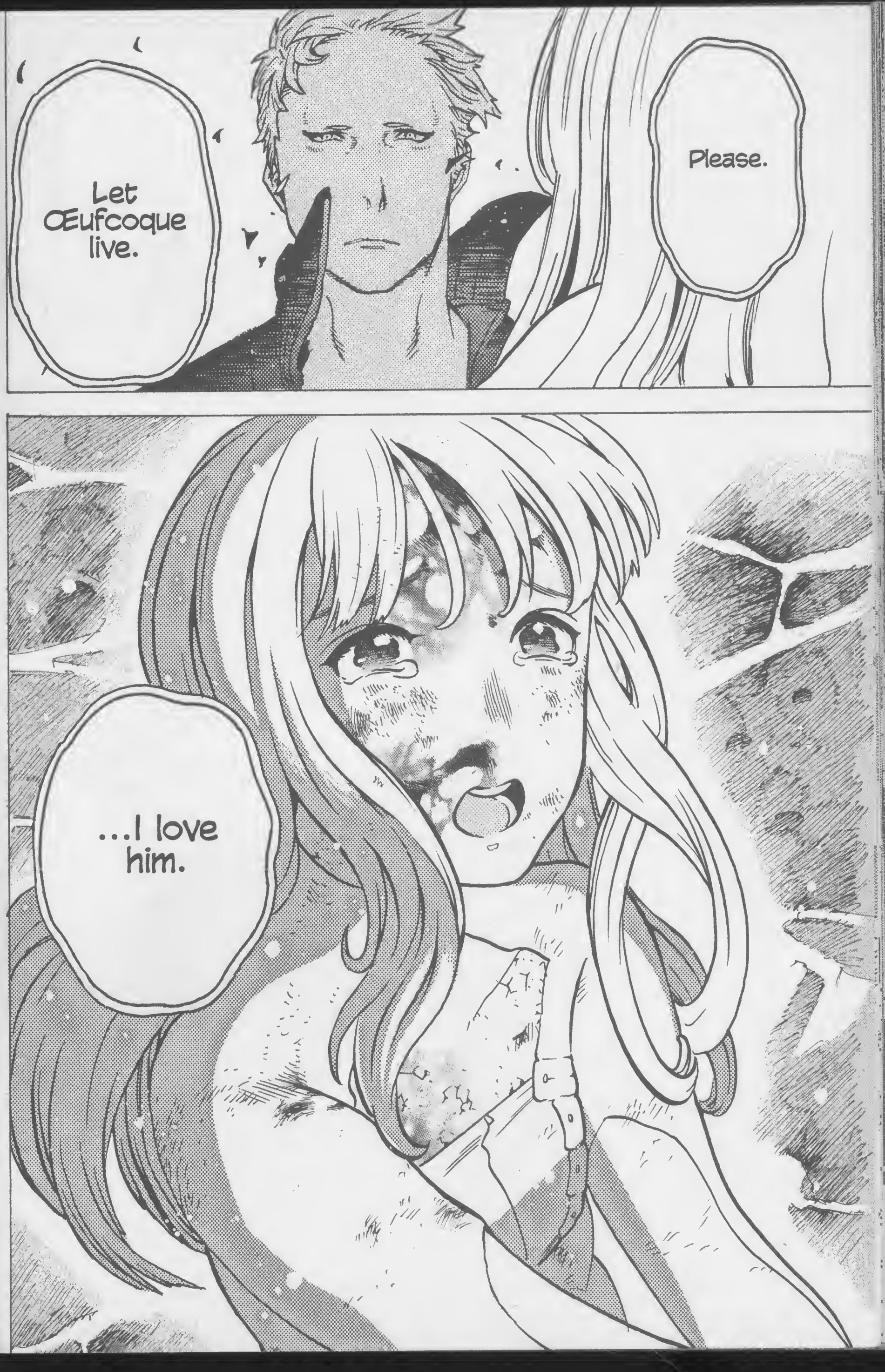

CRIKK
DOOOM



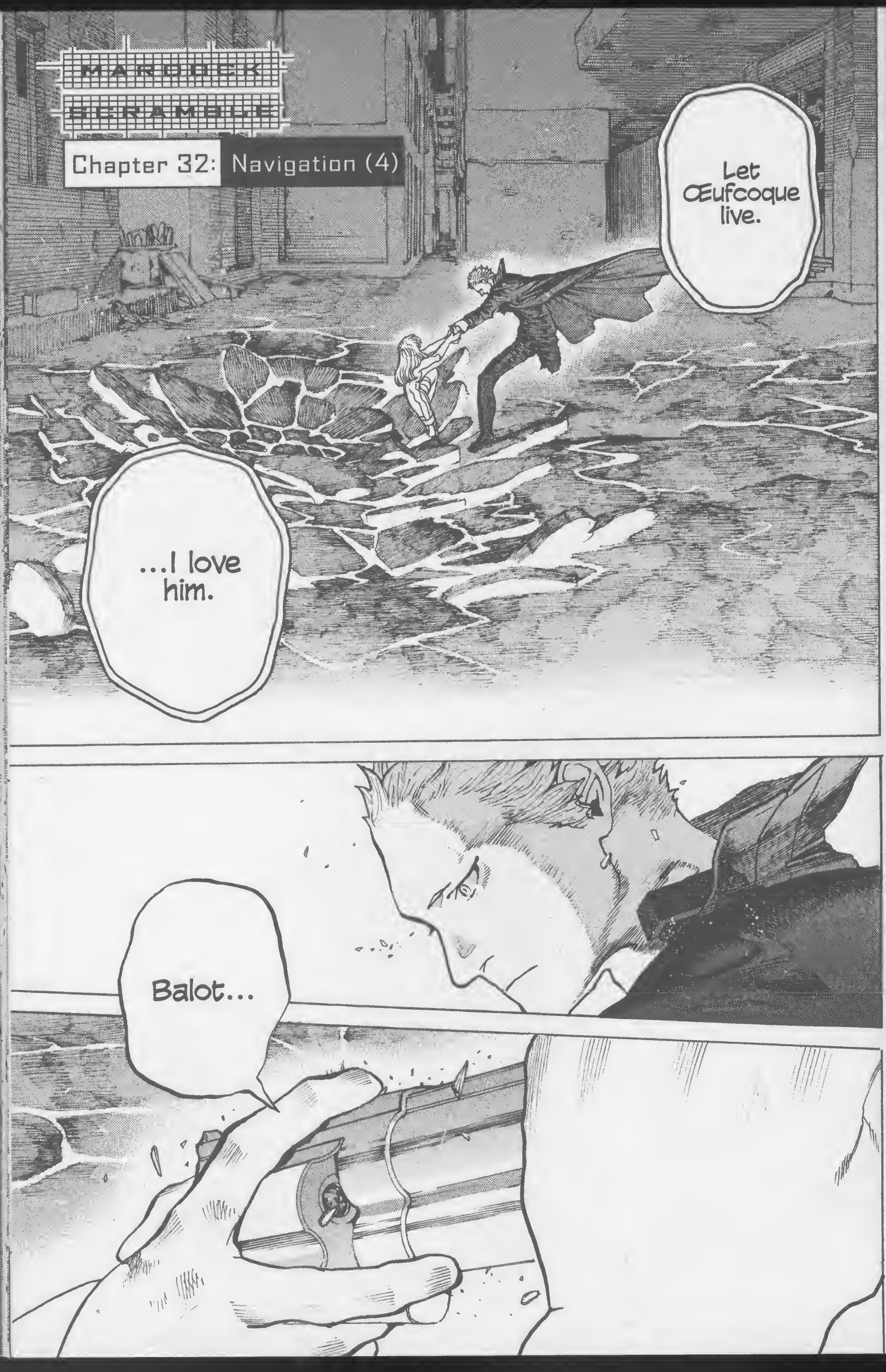

Losing a limb ...
...will not stop me.
Just now, you thought...
"I don't want to die," didn't you?

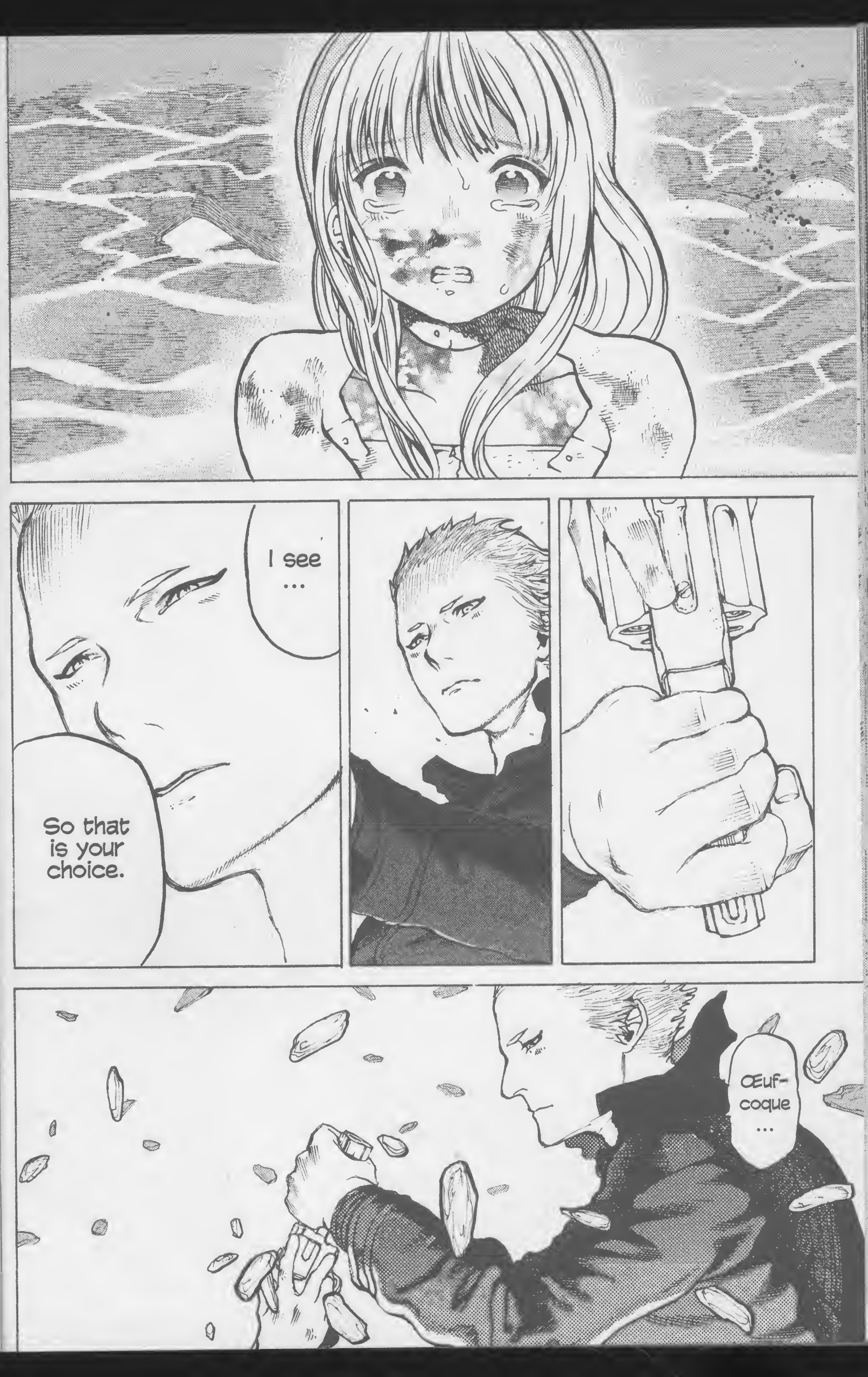

Then shoot me.
Or you and Œufcoque will die.
グイ
PUSH
I'm fine with bread...
...for tomorrow's breakfast.
No jam, no butter.
Just dry bread.
SQUEEZE
Doctor can sleep in until noon.
KRRR
Œuf-coque can scowl all he likes.

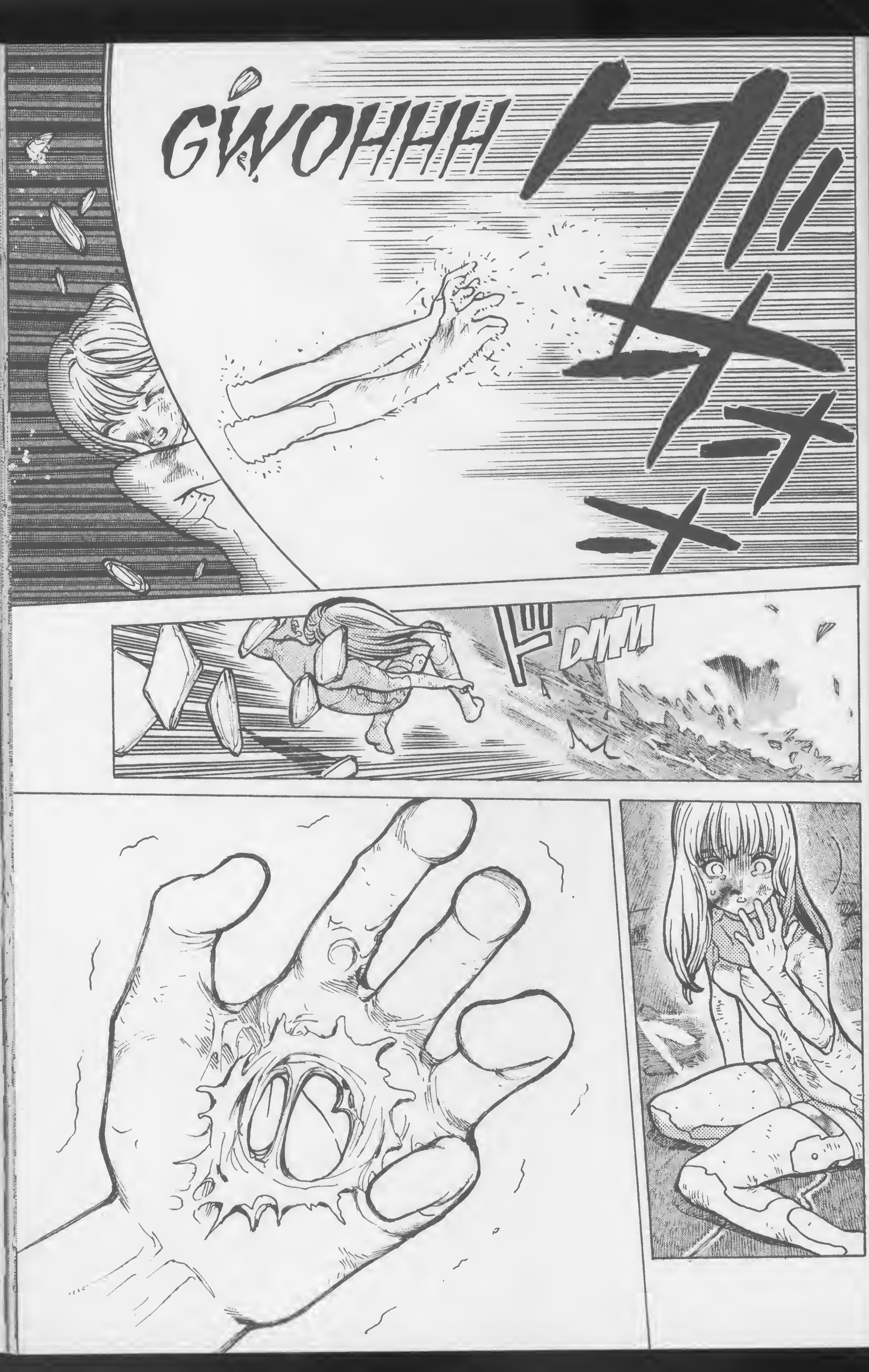

I don't need to visit a festival on my day off.
I don't need a family or friends.
ヒュウ
SWISH
ヒュウ
SWISH
ヒュウ
SWISH
My daily life can be boring.
But...
...if I could be allowed one indulgence...

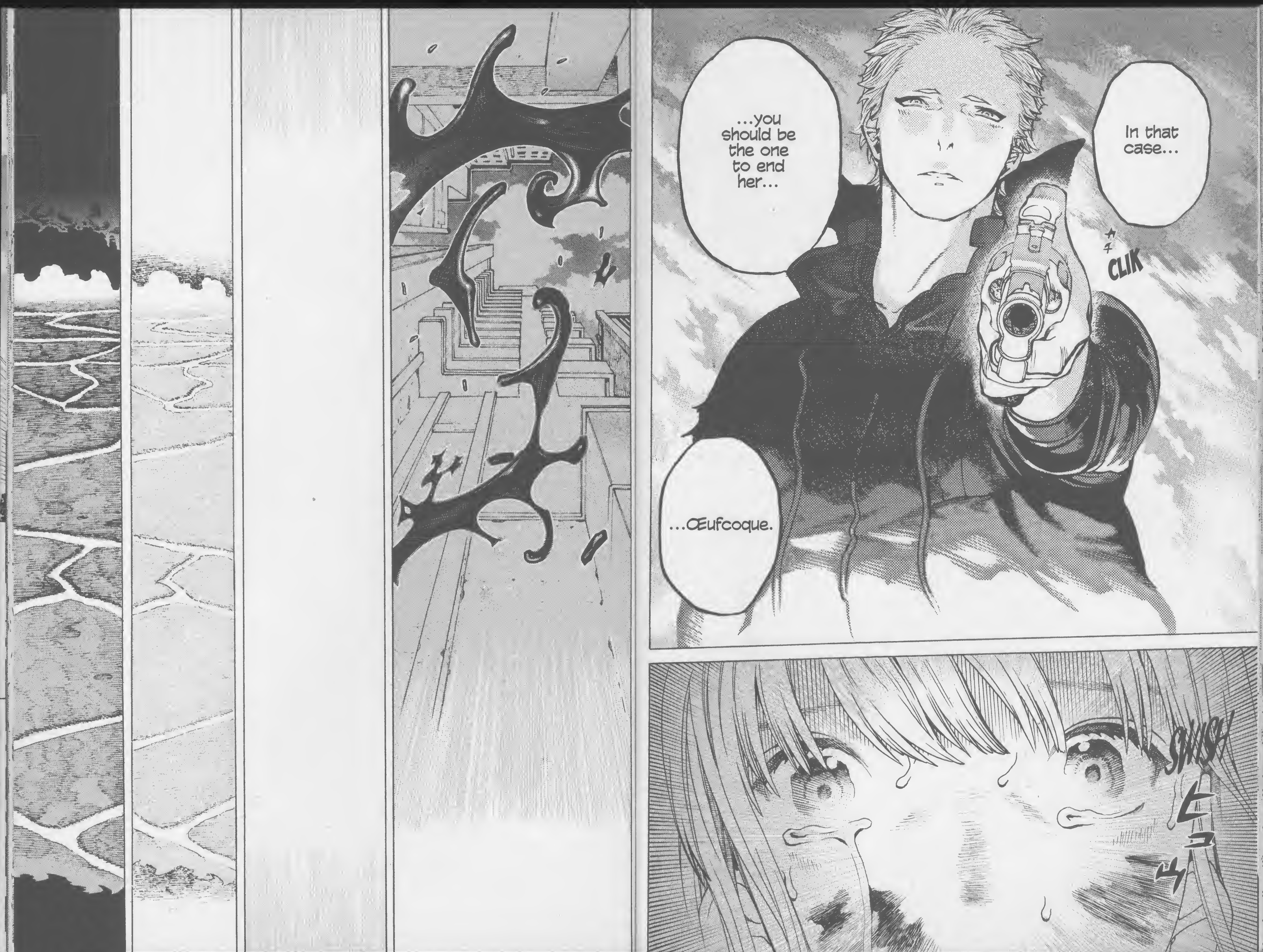

Please.
Let Œufcoque live.
...I love him.

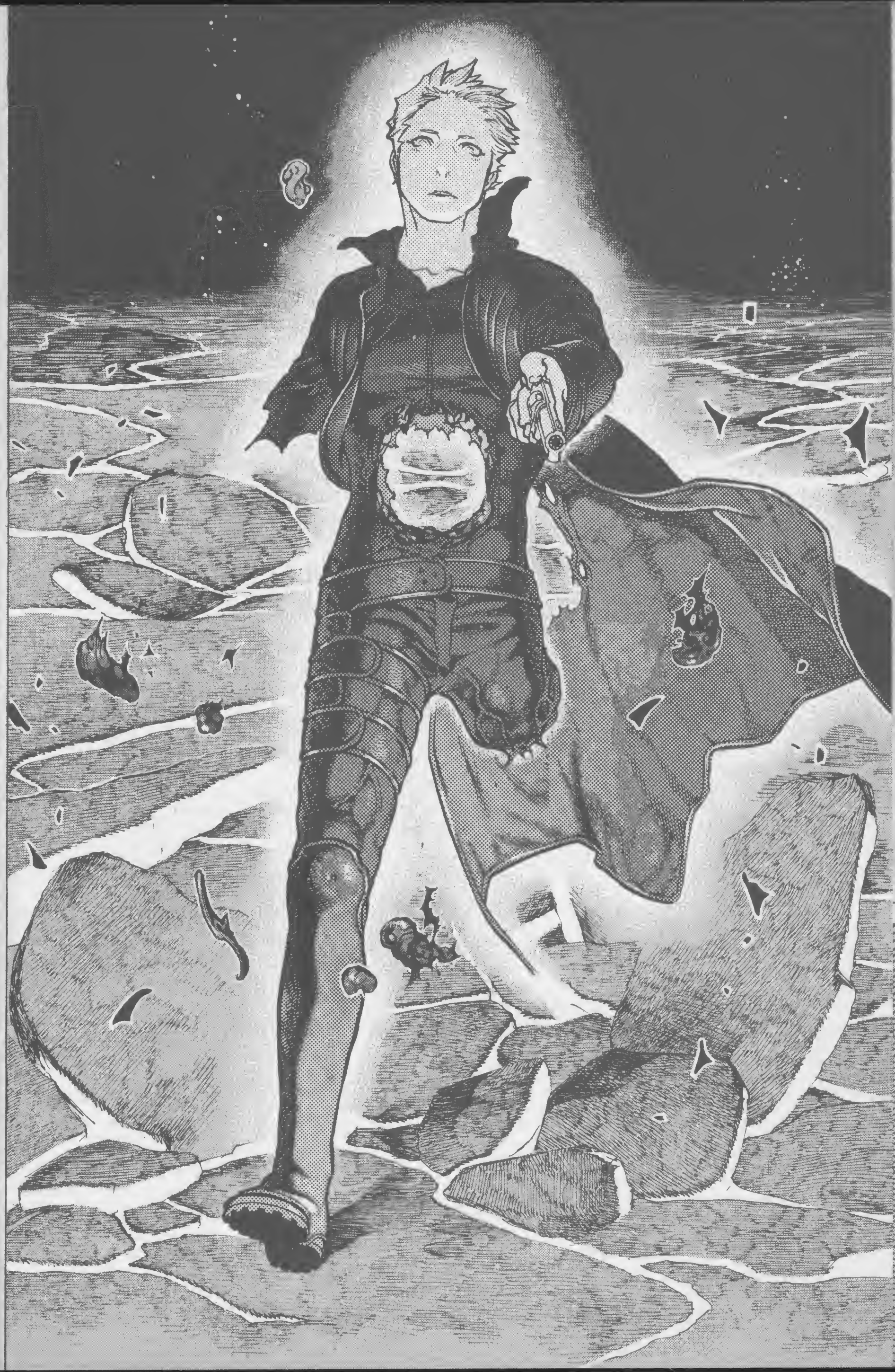
Chapter 32: Navigation (4)

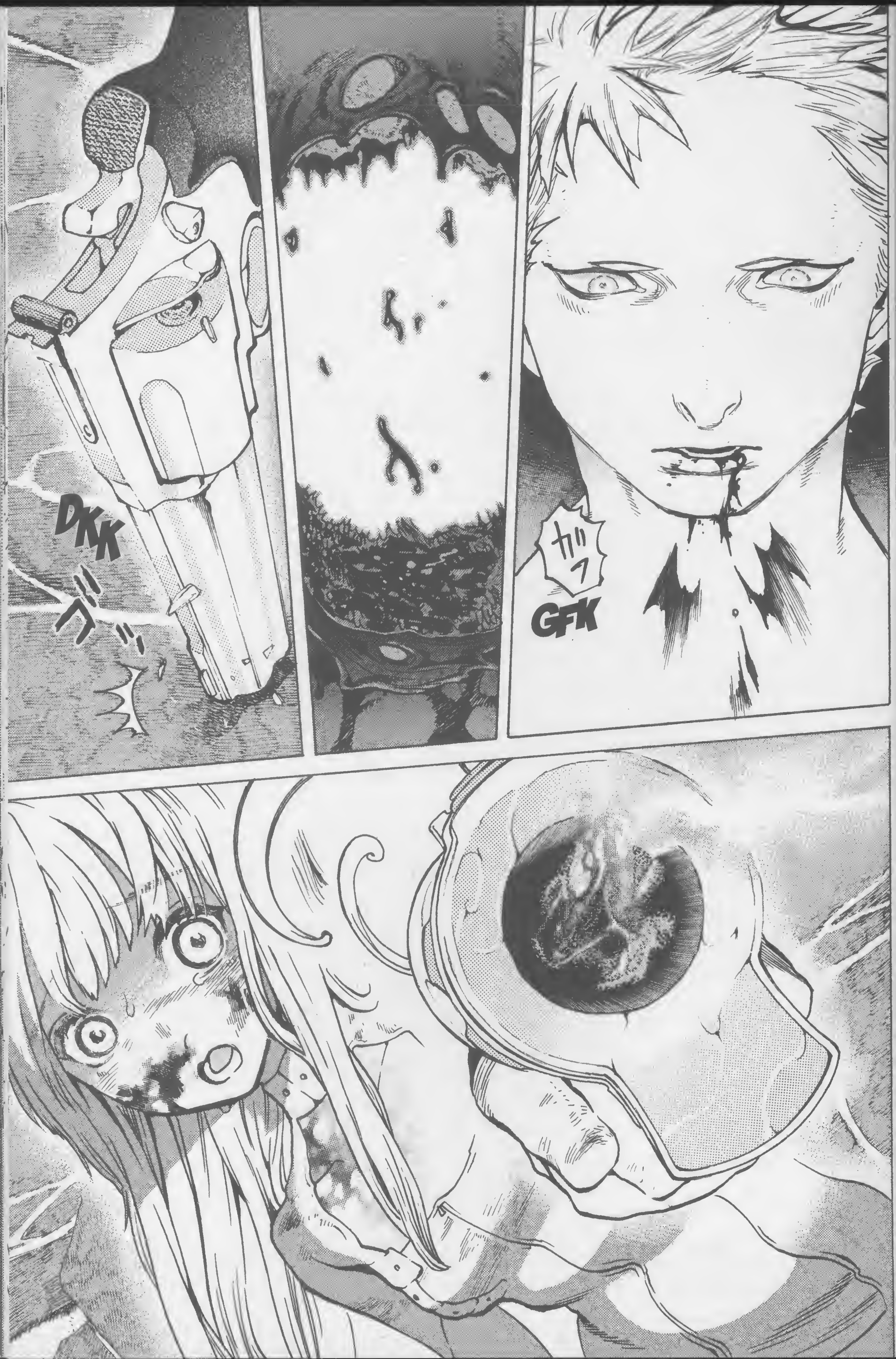

MARDOCK SCRAMBLE
Let Œufcoque live.
...I love him.
Balot...

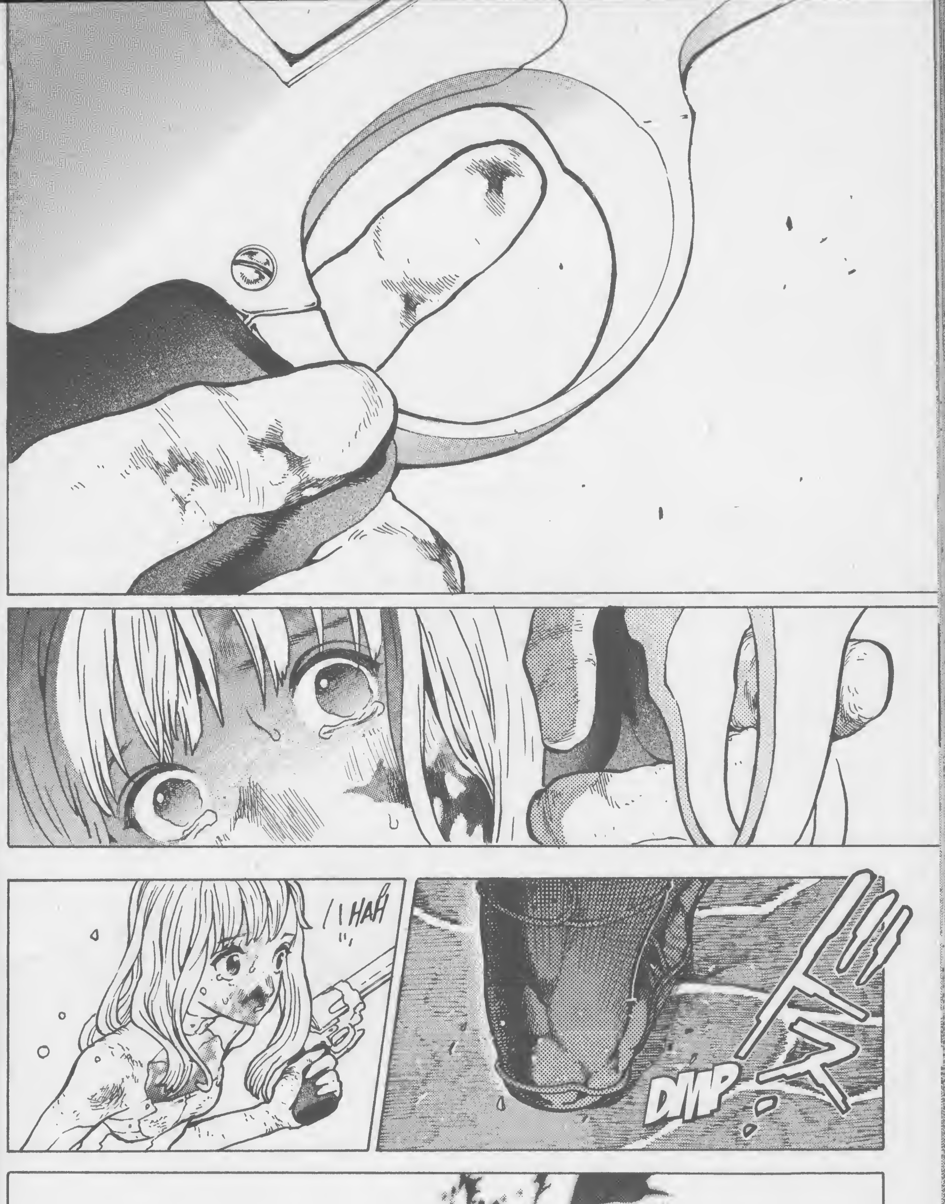

I see ...
So that is your choice.
Œuf-coque ...

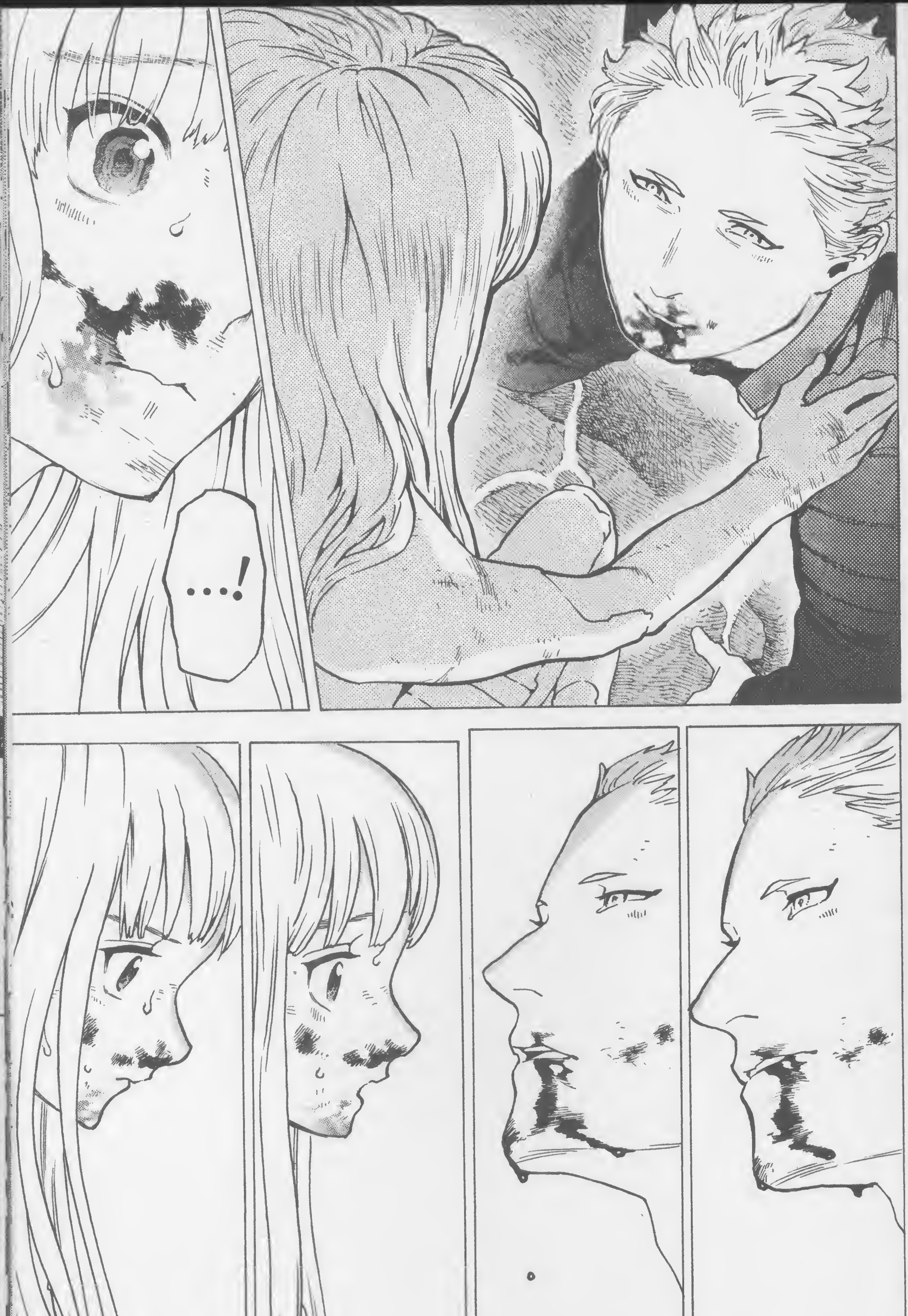

GWOHHH
DMM

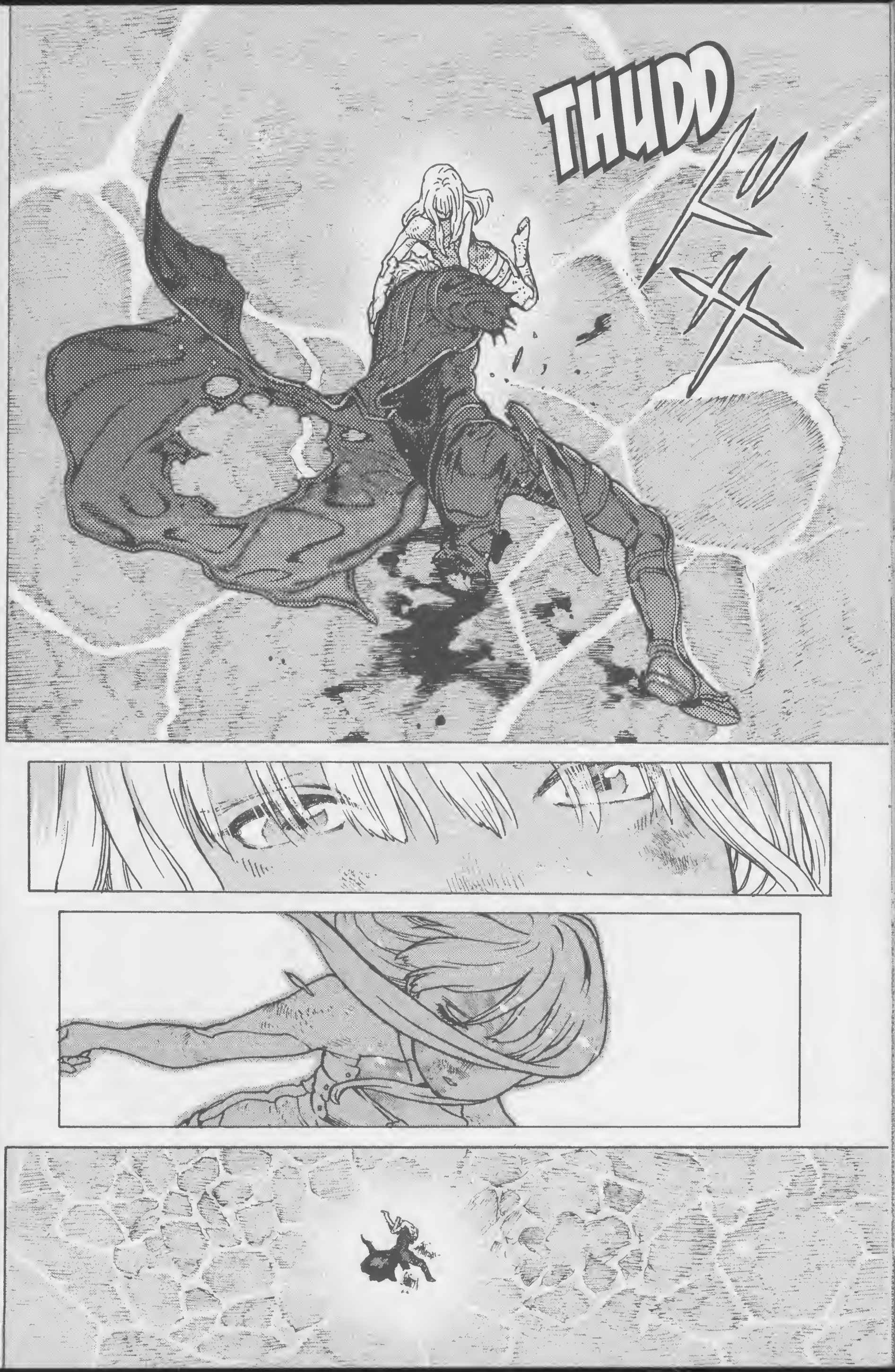

In that case...
カチ
CLIK
...you should be the one to end her...
...Œufcoque.
SWISH
ヒュコム

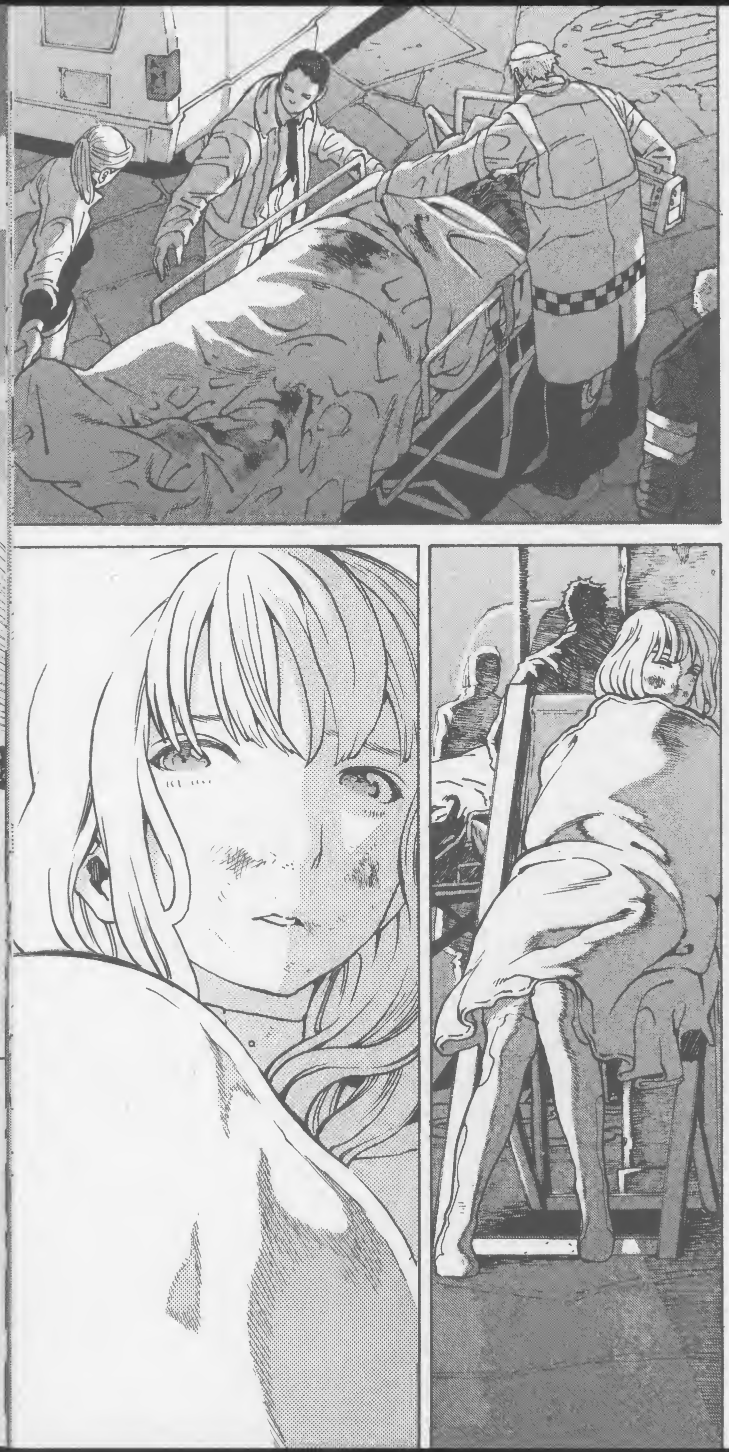


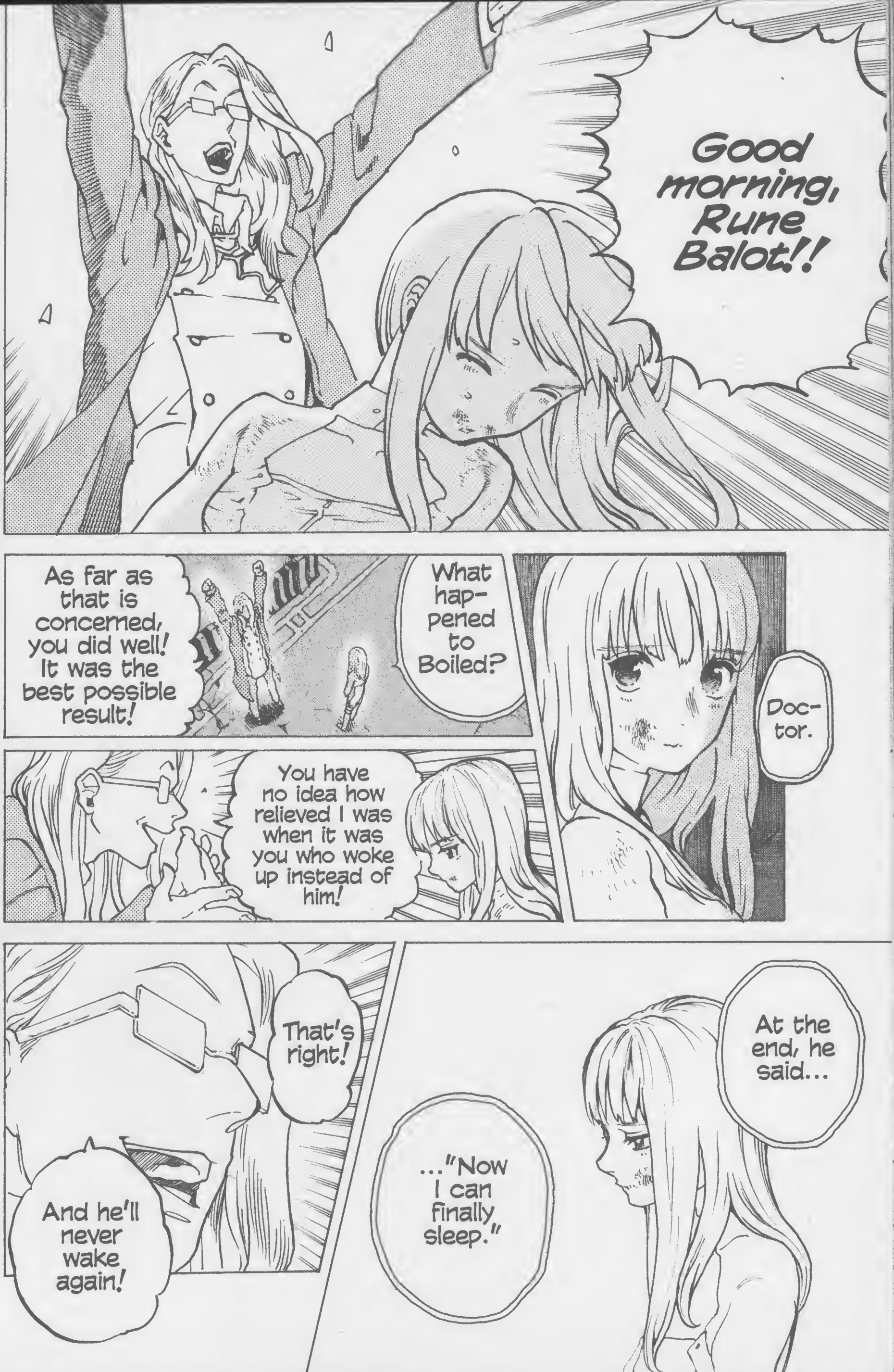

ガフ
GFK
DKK
ブ

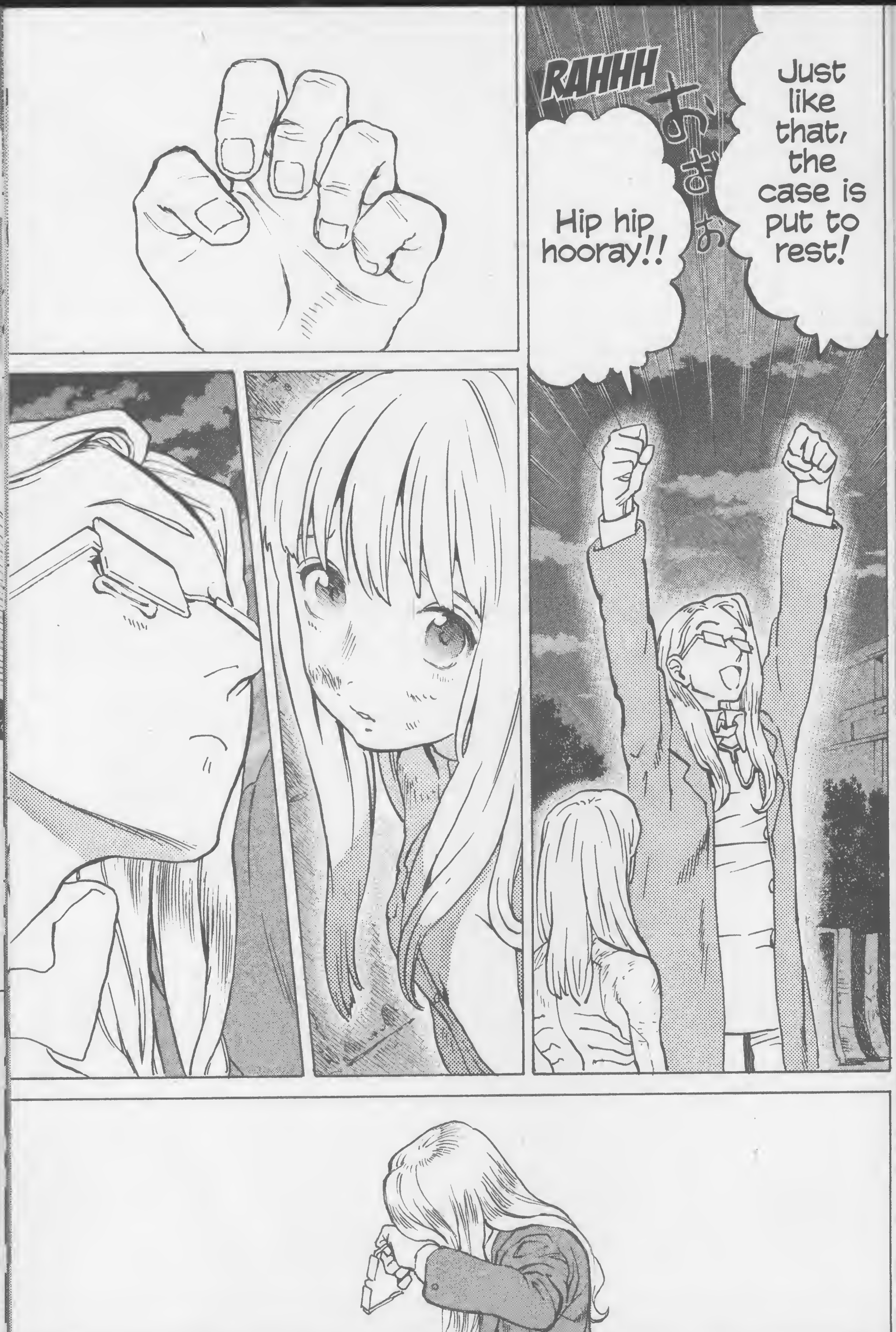

!! HAH
ドス
DMP
ZSH

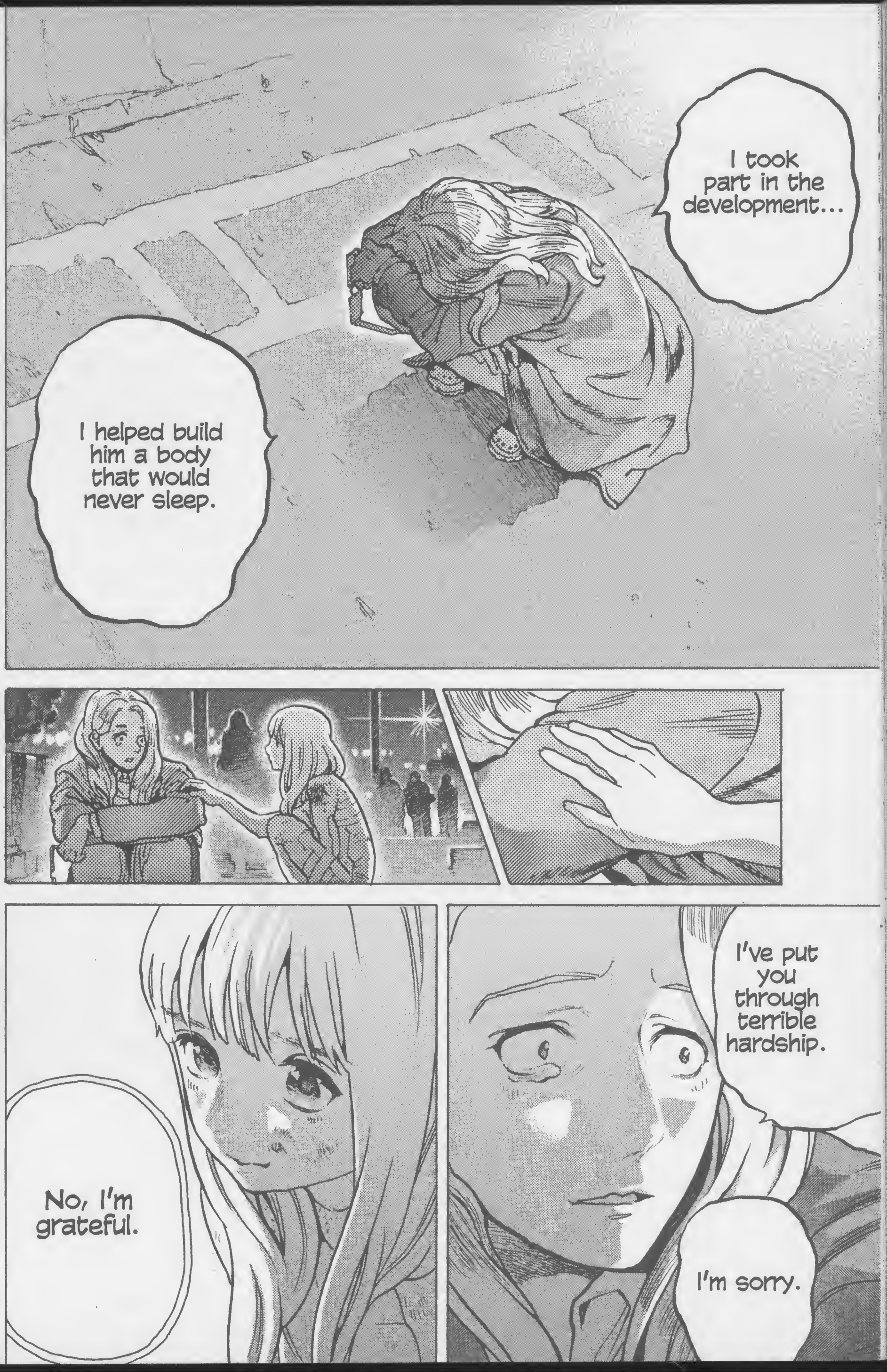

…!

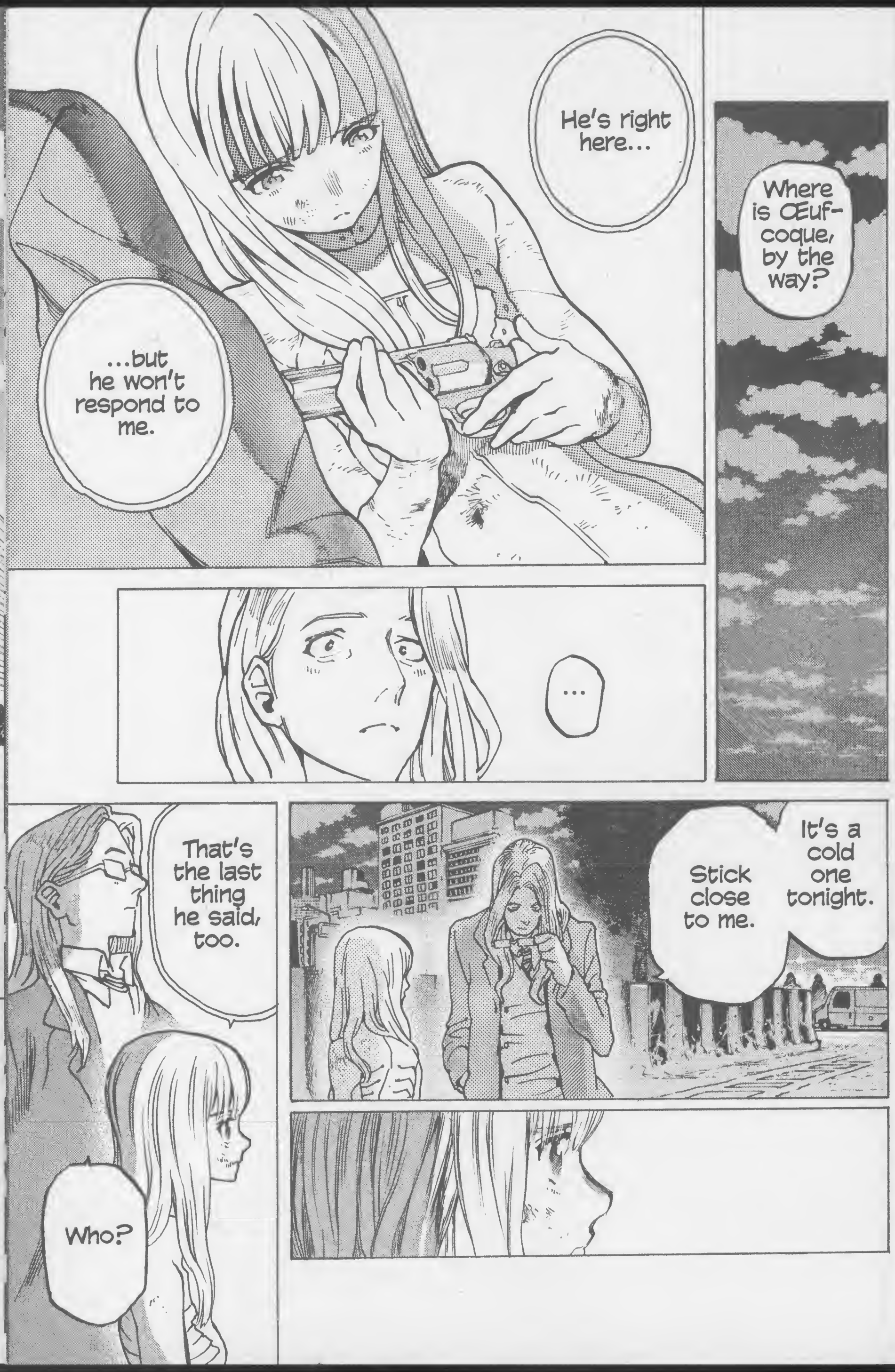

THUDD
ドッ

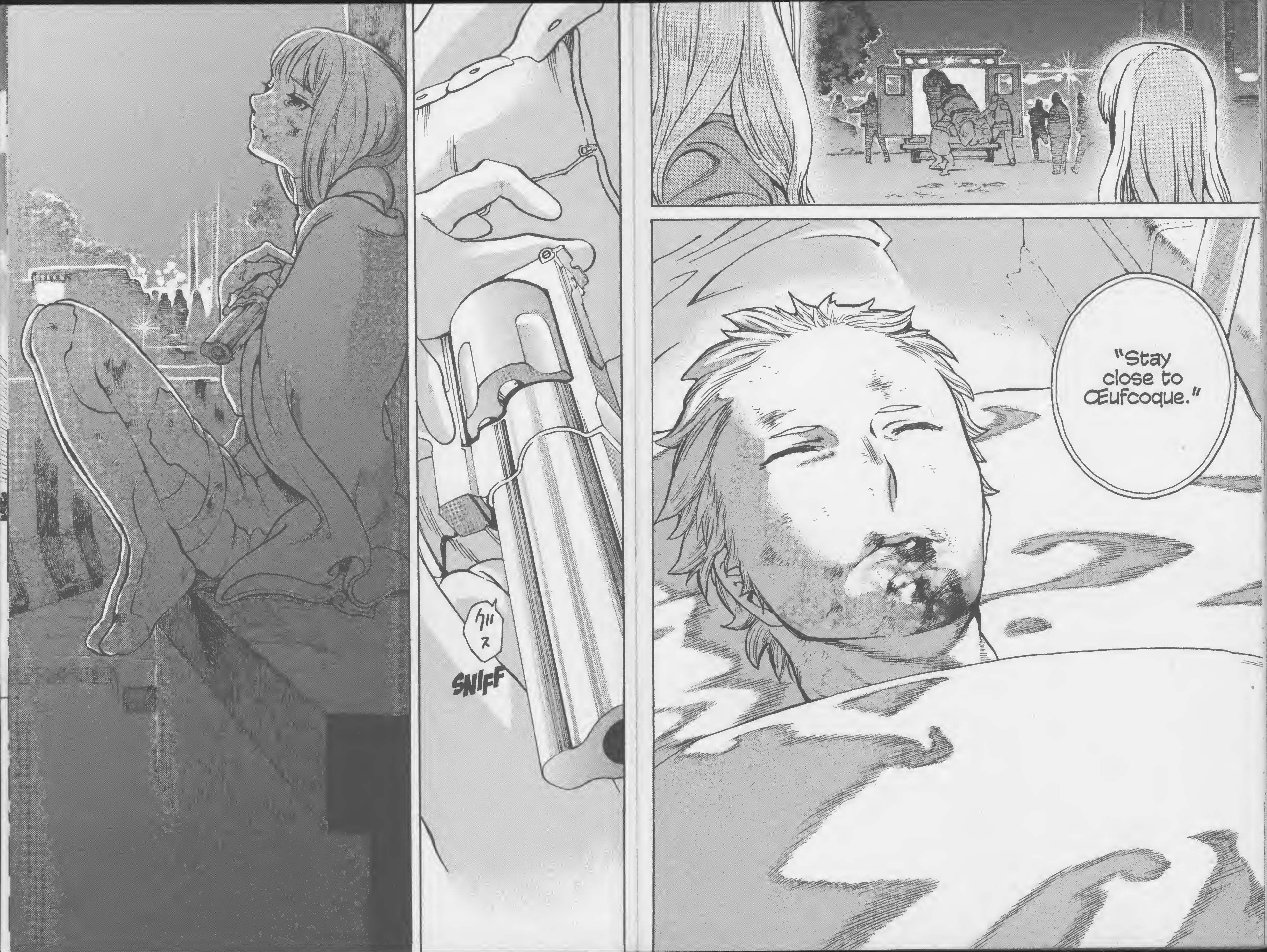


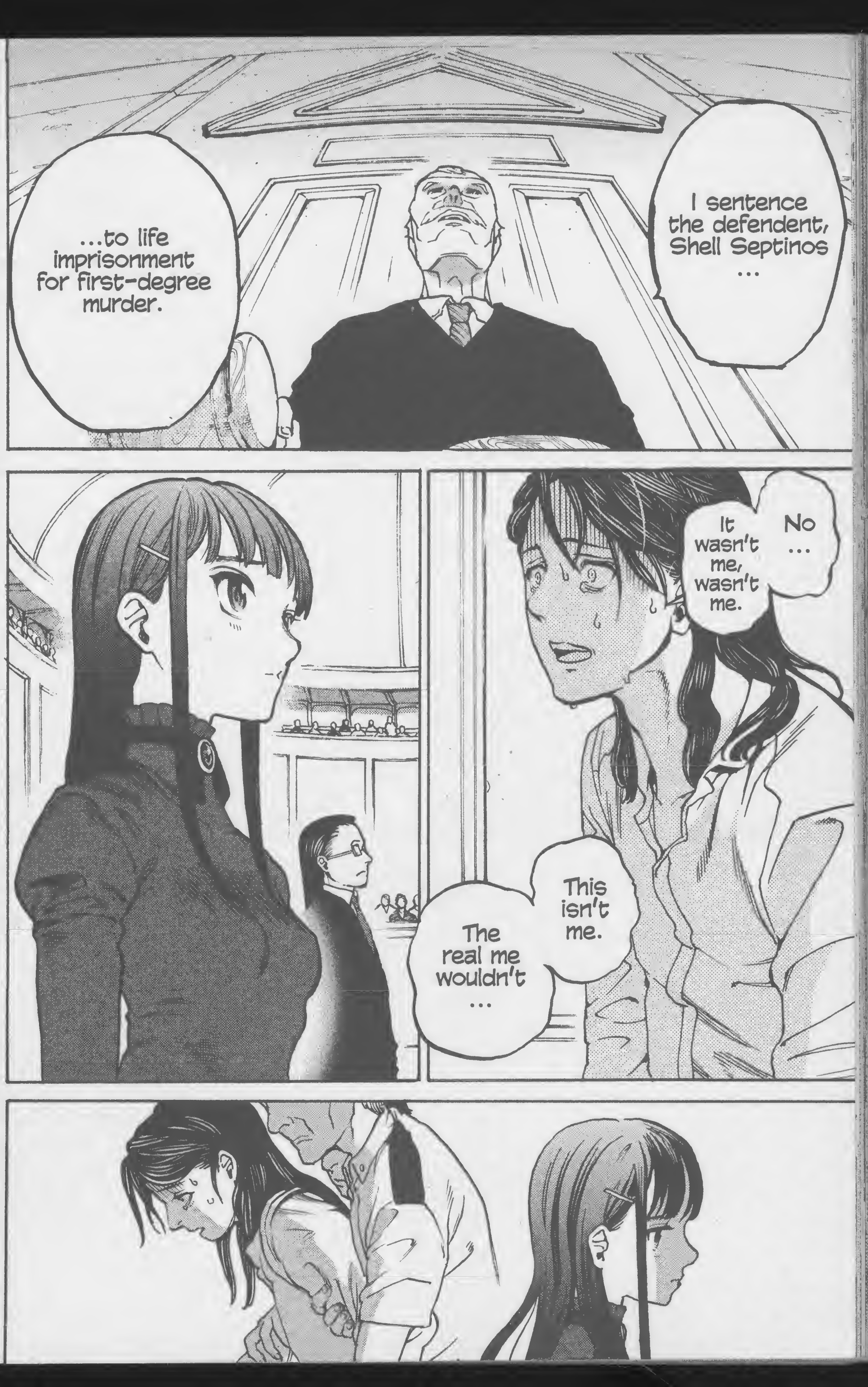

Good morning, Rune Balot!!
Doctor.
What happened to Boiled?
As far as that is concerned, you did well! It was the best possible result!
You have no idea how relieved I was when it was you who woke up instead of him!
At the end, he said...
..."Now I can finally sleep."
That's right!
And he'll never wake again!

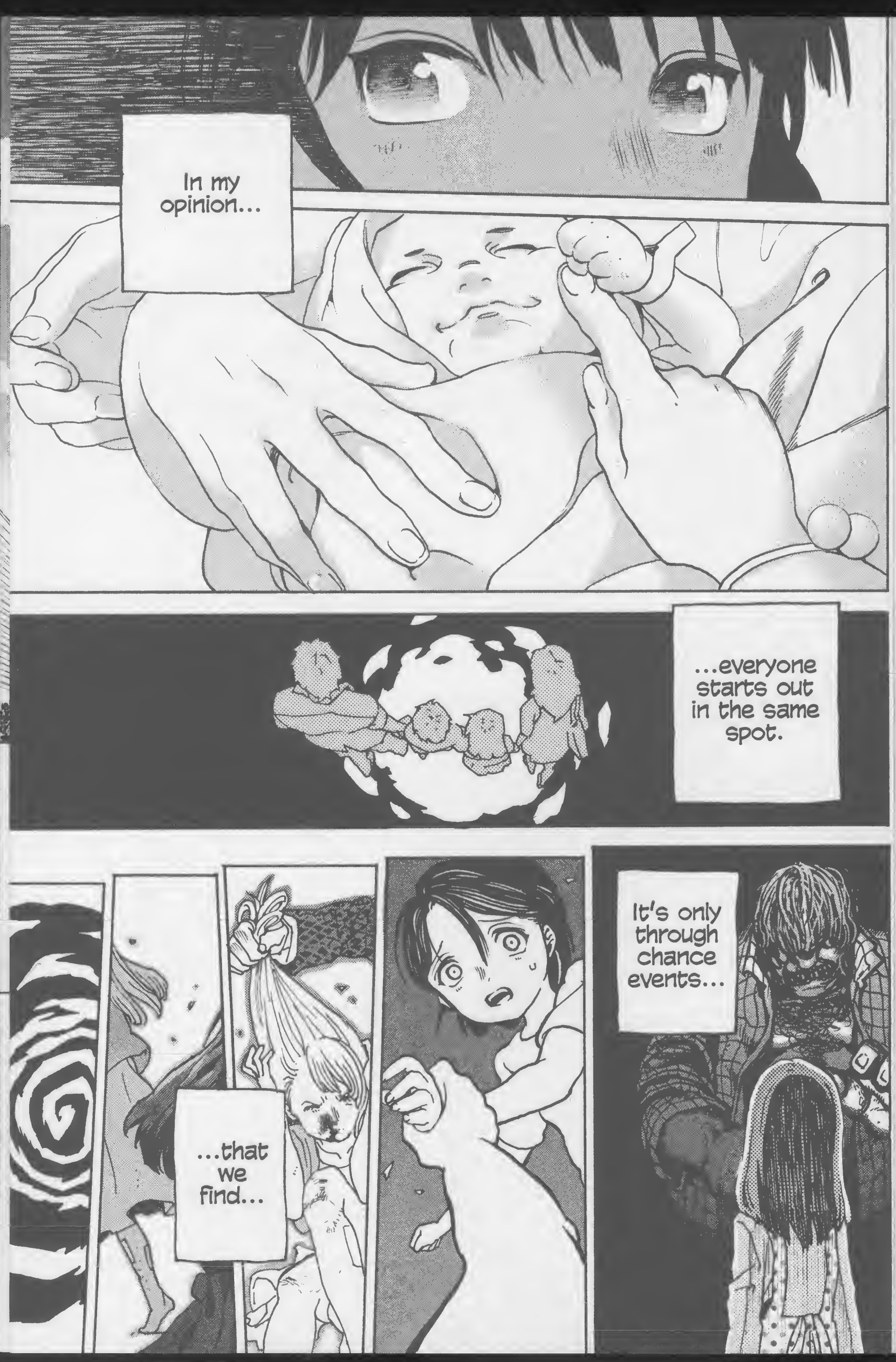

Just like that, the case is put to rest!
RAHHH
おぉぉ
Hip hip hooray!!

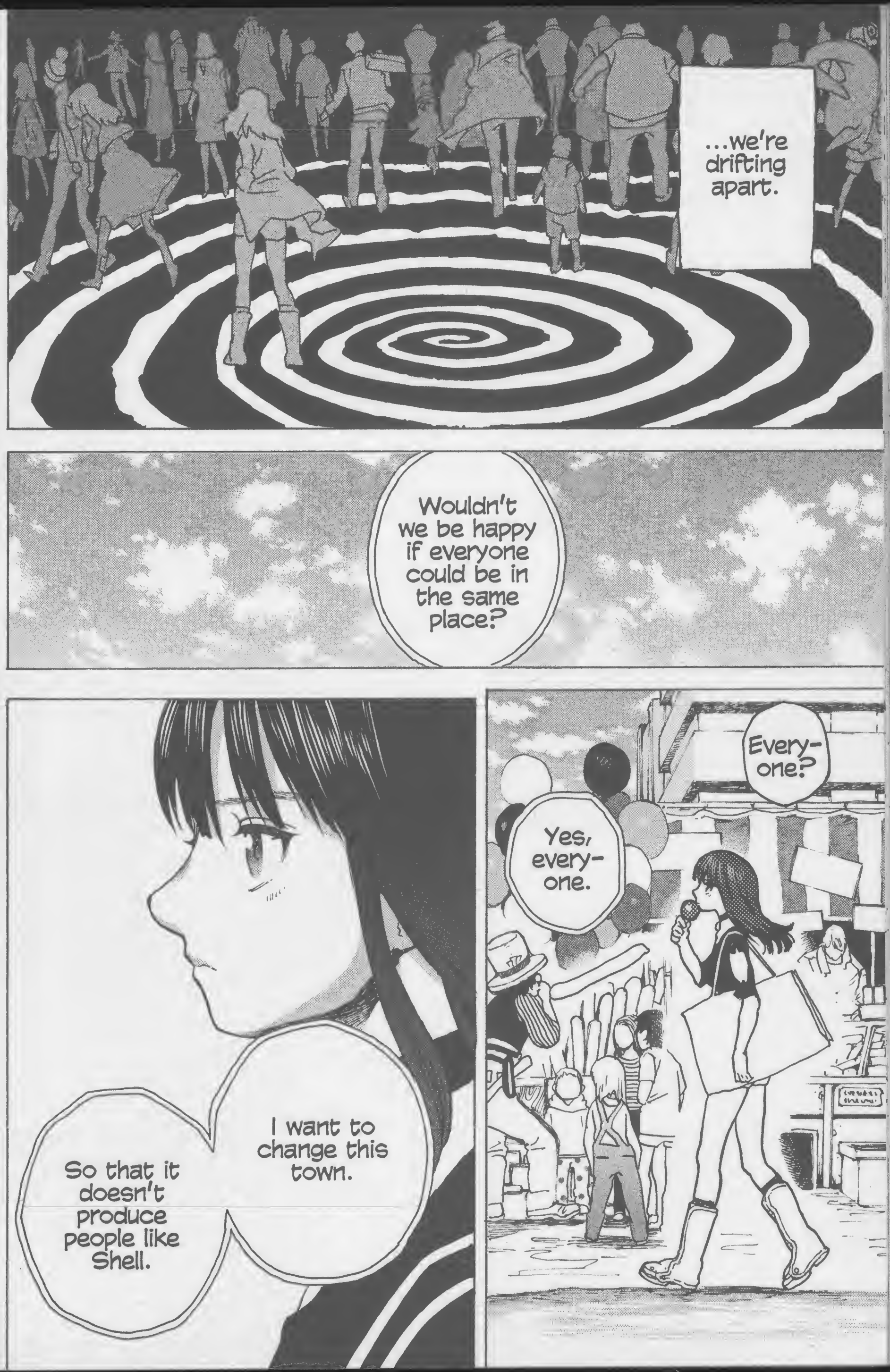

I took part in the development...
I helped build him a body that would never sleep.
I've put you through terrible hardship.
I'm sorry.
No, I'm grateful.

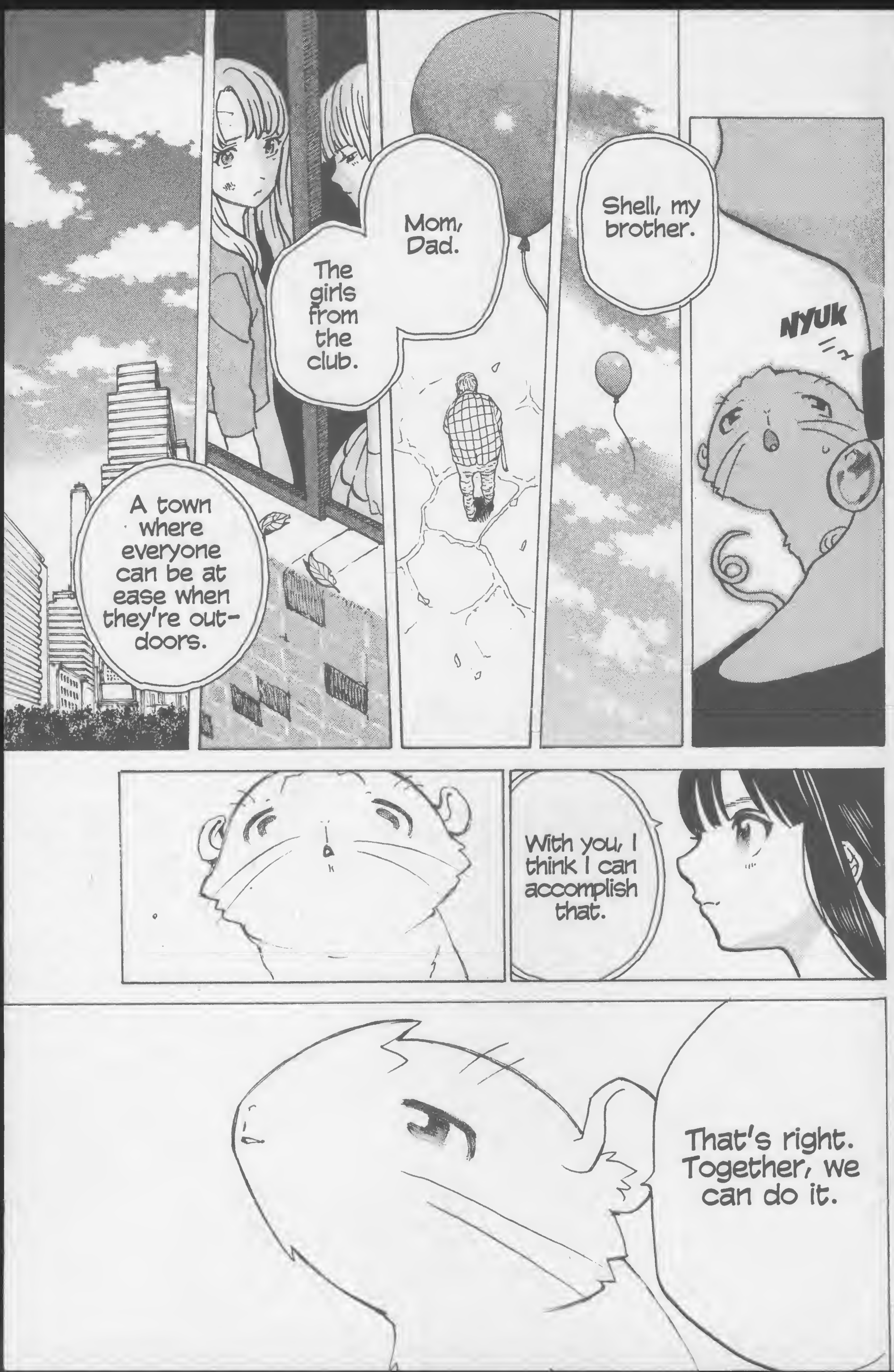

Where is Œufcoque, by the way?
He's right here...
...but he won't respond to me.
...
It's a cold one tonight.
Stick close to me.
That's the last thing he said, too.
Who?

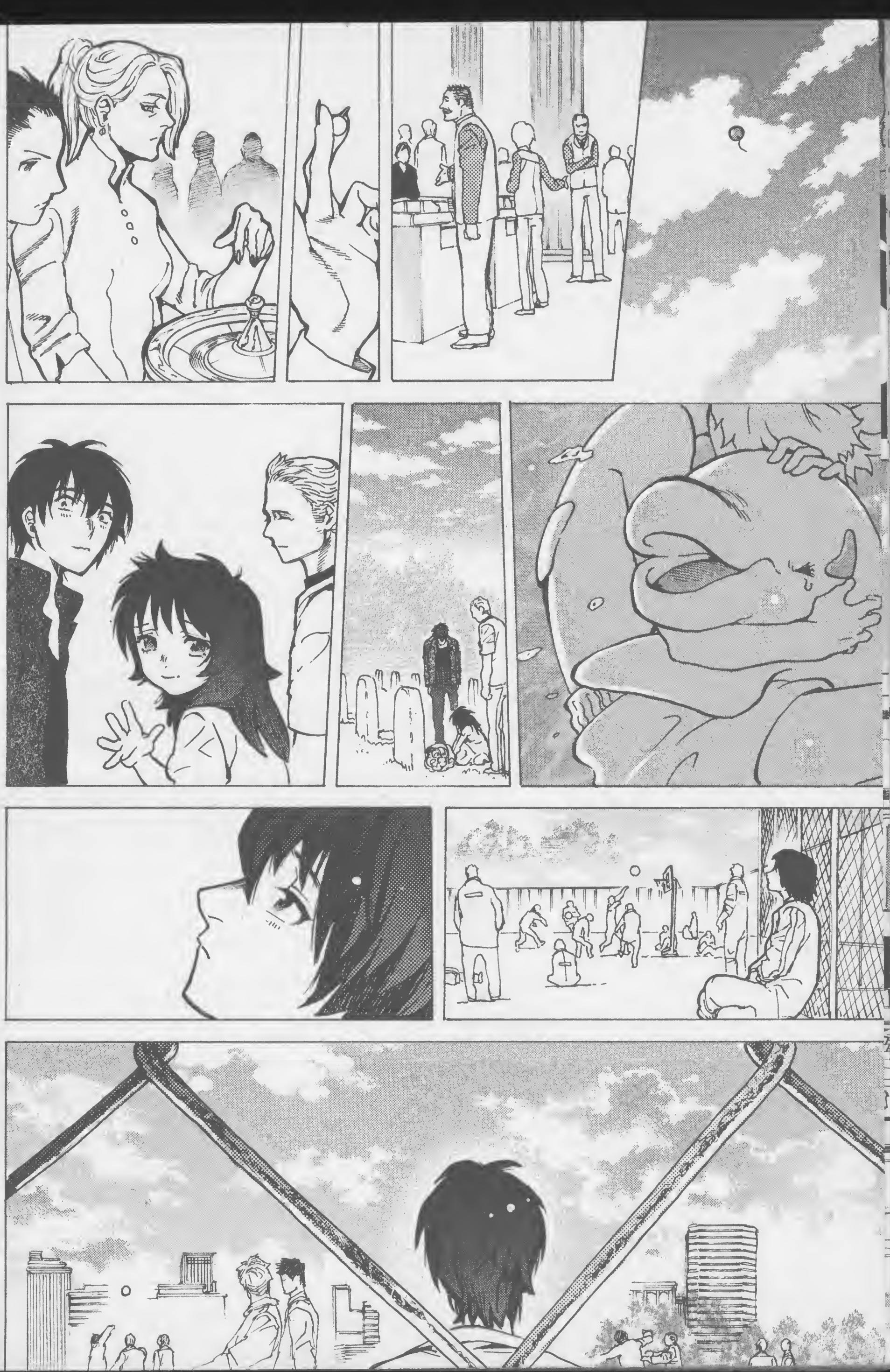

"Stay close to Œufcoque."
グス
SNIFF

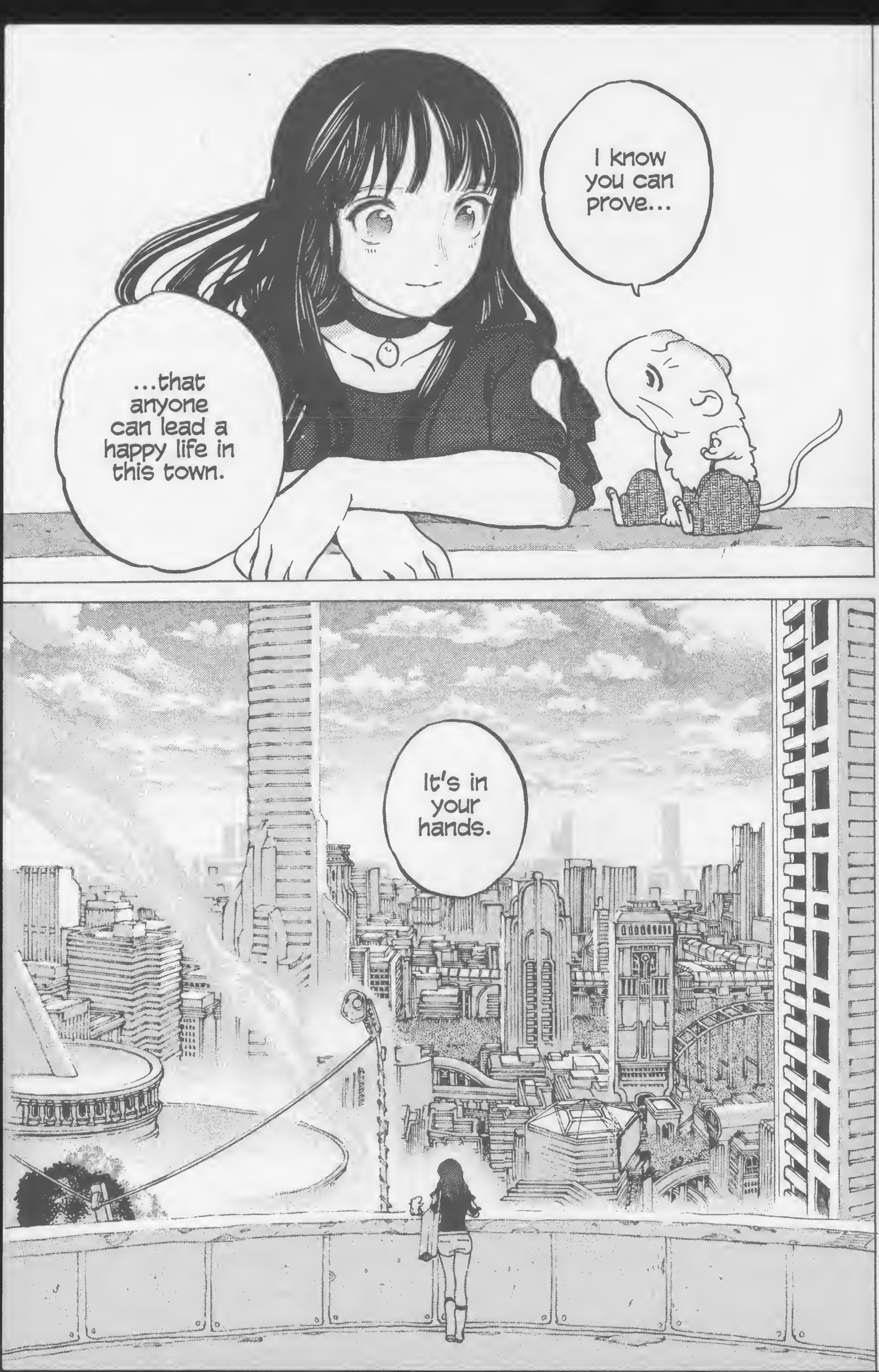

I sentence the defendent, Shell Septinos ...
...to life imprisonment for first-degree murder.
No ...
It wasn't me, wasn't me.
This isn't me.
The real me wouldn't ...


In my opinion...
...everyone starts out in the same spot.
It's only through chance events...
...that we find...


...we're drifting apart.
Wouldn't we be happy if everyone could be in the same place?
Every-one?
Yes, every-one.
I want to change this town.
So that it doesn't produce people like Shell.


NYUK
Shell, my brother.
Mom, Dad.
The girls from the club.
A town where everyone can be at ease when they're out-doors.
With you, I think I can accomplish that.
That's right. Together, we can do it.




I know you can prove...
...that anyone can lead a happy life in this town.
It's in your hands.